

Ridley





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RIDLEY COLLEGE
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Edward Goodall.



Ridley

THE STORY OF A SCHOOL

*Ridley College records its
appreciation to*

*for generous assistance in
making the publication
possible of this history.*

E. B. Pilgrim

Headmaster

K. B. Beattie

SET NO. 89

Author

Volume One

Ridley



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Bishop Nicholas Ridley

Ridley

The Story of a School

by

KIM BEATTIE

Author of: *History of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, 1891-1929*
... "And You!" ... *Brother, Here's A Man* ... *Dileas*

With collaboration in research

by

A. H. Griffith, B.A.



PUBLISHED BY RIDLEY COLLEGE, ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO.

Dedicated to
The Ridley Boy

Introduction

by

ARTHUR L. BISHOP

President of Ridley College

WITHIN the covers of these volumes will be found the story of high ideals, motivated by the fervent hope and enthusiasm of the founders, and translated into being by the establishment of a residential school for boys in the year 1889, in very humble surroundings. This was a time when Canada was not overly blessed with such institutions but the School did possess in those who were responsible for its founding, men of vision, enthusiasm, conviction, and above all a firm belief in the benefits to be derived from an education firmly based upon the ethic of the Christian religion.

The school opened its doors in September 1889 in Springbank, an old hotel property in St. Catharines. The Reverend J. O. Miller, M.A., D.C.L., was the first Headmaster and from the day the school opened until his retirement in 1921, he brought to bear upon the boys the impress of his character in its many sterling qualities. Associated with him was H. G. Williams, B.A. (London) who closely matched the original Head in all his attributes and who, with H. C. Griffith, M.A., LL.D., acted as a joint-principal of the School from 1921 to 1932.

On Mr. Williams' retirement in 1932, Dr. Griffith became Headmaster. He was an Old Boy and an original of Ridley. Dr. Griffith continued the high level of quality established by his predecessors until his retirement in 1949, when the humble beginnings of the School's inception had grown to great proportions in stately brick and stone across the old Welland Canal.

Two wars took their toll of boys who had passed from the School into the Armed Forces and their names are recorded for all time in the memorials to their memory.

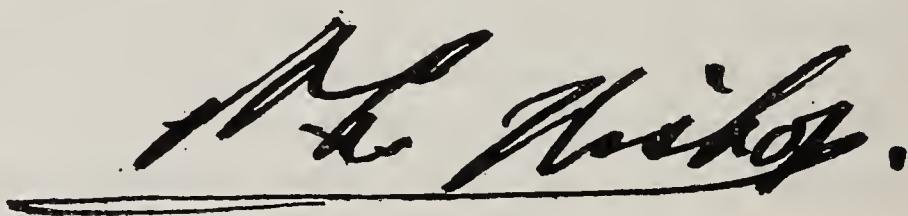
In succession and complete harmony of effort and ideals came the third Headmaster, J. R. Hamilton, M.A., F.C.I.C., LL.D., 1949 to 1961, whose intellectual abilities and personal qualities endeared him to many pupils and parents and Old Boys of all eras throughout his tenure of office.

The present Headmaster, E. V. B. Pilgrim, M.A., thus inherits in his assumption of responsibility some seventy-three years of great tradition, splendid scholarship and the wealth of goodwill and good personal relations built up by his predecessors.

In choosing the name of Ridley College the founders had in mind the perpetuation of the martyr who was burned at the stake for his religious convictions at the time of the Reformation, and the emphasis throughout the life of the School has been based upon the translation of its motto, *Terar Dum Prosim* to *May I Be Consumed in Service*.

The work of the author and the history committee has been most exhaustive in the research of the available school records as well as of the recollections of original Ridleians still alive.

Old Ridleians may well be proud of the story of the School as recited herewith and it is highly commended in every way as a record, an inspiration, and a challenge to be maintained for the future.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "M. H. Nichols." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M". A horizontal line is drawn beneath the signature.

March 31, 1963

Author's Foreword

TO BE HONOURED with the privilege of writing the Ridley story was both challenging and humbling, and a sense of obligation deepened steadily as the work progressed. There was one obligation to all those Old Ridleians who cherish their old school with a depth of loyalty which may be unique in Canadian education; it extends to a feeling of personal responsibility toward Ridley which manifests itself in a determination to ensure her perpetuation. This affection for Ridley, this pride of the Old Boys in the school of their youth is an infectious thing; the author was so completely captured by Ridley and her Ridleians that his intention to be objective kept slipping away. This warm, stirring boys' boarding school in a beautiful setting above the banks of a stream once known as The Twelve seems to defy rigid objectivity.

There was another and greater obligation: to Ridley as an institution. It is owing because of the steadfastness of her principles in the face of the rise of materialism and the constant assaults on her ideals by the winds of social change. Some of the diverging currents to mark her period of Canadian history, which stretches from the Victorian Age to the Age of Nuclear Fear, were very strong, almost violent. Ridley resisted them, with her ideals and principles protected and preserved.

Far back in 1889, Ridley's dedicated founders had deeply desired that education and their Evangelical Anglican principles would walk quietly hand in hand in the independent church school for boys they established at St. Catharines. They decreed that the moulding of character would be the most important of all factors in training boys to take their adult role in society. The spirit of service would be steadily instilled; the old-fashioned virtues, and qualities like honour and self-respect, would be strong in Ridley's atmosphere. This wonderful philosophy of education, with idealism fused to the practical demands of scholarship, has been faithfully passed on through successive Boards of Governors, and from one headmaster and his academic staff to the next.

That Ridley has stood resolutely behind the ideals of this educational philosophy over seventy changing years is, of course, the core of her historic achievement. She has forgotten she was born in religious controversy, but she has never forgotten her purpose. Far more important than her physical

growth in magnificent buildings and the imposing attainments of her long roll of great scholars is the satisfaction of having proved that the dedication of honourable men to high principles can withstand the influences of materialism on social viewpoints and patterns of living. A cynic will fall silent by just observing how little the idealistic dream of Ridley's founders in the Victorian year of 1889 has been diluted by the pressures of industrialization, of war, of social irresponsibility, economic depression, universal fear and, always, that relentless spread of materialism.

To seek to portray something of Ridley's institutional greatness, which derives from steadfast respect for an ideal, has been the most inescapable obligation of all.

The story of Ridley had to be told against that constantly altering Canadian scene. Prior to 1914, Ridley often seemed an island of remoteness, but from that time her sense of isolation began to melt away. This meant that each group of graduates had to be fitted for adult life in a world which neither their predecessors nor their successors knew. The Canada which the young Ridleians entered during the Victorian Age, and in the Good Years prior to 1914, was in sharp contrast to a Canada upheaved by war, or with its values assailed by the heedlessness of the Roaring Twenties; and the Canada of the Great Depression had almost no relation to the Canada of the Missile Fifties, when the products of Ridley entered a way of life which was under the unrelenting threat of the weapons of military science.

How the young Ridleians were morally armed and mentally equipped to handle life in each of these Canadas has been fascinating to observe and study, particularly because herein lies the justification for the independent church school. Despite the pressures of social change, young men were produced with not only a steadily rising repute in the universities for scholarship, but also with an exceptionally strong sense of personal integrity.

Their combined repugnance to false gods and their enthusiasm for hard-played games may explain why Ridley has never appeared to be a target during the seemingly inevitable rounds of aspersions of the private school as an alleged breeder of stuffed-shirtism and old-school-tie snobbery. The Old Boys of Ridley long ago refuted any justification for such a charge. It did not fit anything about them, especially not that part of their philosophy which dictated their attitude toward others. It also did not fit their almost unanimous conviction on the obligations of citizenship. They began to illustrate this as early as the South African War. In all Canada's wars an extraordinary proportion of Old Ridleians has always joined the fighting services. It has been a higher proportion than that of any other Canadian group of which this historian has knowledge, except perhaps the military colleges.

Ridley's graduate body is very far from a cult of self-esteem or exclusiveness. The mark of Ridley is on them all, but there is no other bond; when they

leave school they scatter, each to his own role in society. At their reunions they seek to live their Ridley days briefly in nostalgia, then they scatter again.

The author greatly appreciated the attitude adopted regarding this work by President A. L. Bishop and the Board of Governors, particularly its History Committee, composed of Governors Hamilton Cassels, Q.C., chairman, W. E. N. Bell, H. E. Foster and D. S. Weld. Chairman Cassels' dedication to the endeavour was so complete that it meant a contribution in advice, attention to production details and assistance in editing which was invaluable. It extended over two years, and was always time-consuming. The History Committee gave the author complete freedom to form his own views and find his own impressions. The emphasis given and the perspectives taken are entirely the author's own, created from impressions independently formed by him from many sources. This independence for the author was extended to cover all phases of the work, including even such things as the selection and presentation of illustrations, which are generously profuse for a work of this nature.

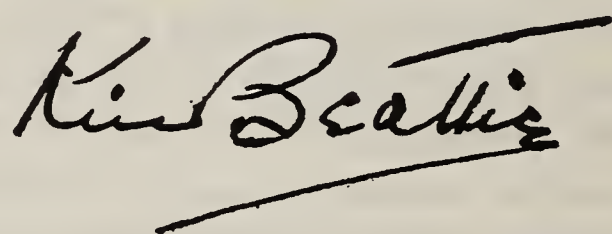
The writing pattern responsible for the character of the work is naturally also the author's own. The type of formal history was rejected which is based on a tedious procession of names, events, dates, decisions and developments, and which emerges at best as an historically correct monument of research. Most monuments are constructed for something or someone dead, and Ridley is alive. Besides, in such a so-called orthodox history, emphasis is on administration, which would mean that the most important attribute of all – the boys of Ridley – would suffer neglect.

The challenge lay in the writing technique: how could the author incorporate something which might spark the embers of memory for all boys of all Ridley eras? The formidable intention has been to help each one recall the depth of his school spirit at a time when everything to him was either a rosy pinnacle or a dark valley, with nothing really unimportant. The way of a schoolboy is such that a caning, his escapades in mischief-making or baiting masters, his first cadet uniform, his fierce pride in the orange and black, and his desperate young fear that he might not wear the School's colours with honour on the gridiron or cricket pitch, on the track or in the rink or gym, are by far the most momentous of all things. But to help each one recapture such personal flashbacks meant that no Ridley era – not a year, not even a season – could be neglected from 1889 to 1959. The author-historian thus confronted himself with the need to maintain readability despite the repetition over seventy years of sixty-nine cricket, football and hockey seasons, sixty-eight cross-country runs, and sixty-nine Sports Days and Prize Days. He also had to abandon hope of approval by general readers and the literary critics; to them, a succession of such things as game results is sheer tedium. Whether or not the modest ambition to maintain the quality of readability has been

achieved in the face of such forbidding repetition is now up for judgment by the most discerning critics of all, the boys of Ridley of all periods.

Tributes are due to many for their assistance, including the kind aid of people of other institutions. The numbers of Old Ridleians who helped compile the story of Ridley are almost beyond counting; without their assistance the work could not have been completed. The author can only express his gratitude to the many masters, other members of the staff, and especially to the Old Boys in vast numbers, starting with those whose Ridley period was in the Gay Nineties of the last century, who gave generously of their time to resurrect Ridleiana from forgotten pigeon-holes of their memories. The assistance of Mr. Terence Cronyn, Secretary-Treasurer, Ridley Old Boys' Association, was given freely over a long period.

A special debt is, of course, owing to Mr. A. H. Griffith, B.A., who collaborated in the extensive research. His contribution also extended over many months, all of it tedious. His role often must have seemed uninteresting, but his devotion did not falter. He also contributed valuable suggestions from his long personal association with the School.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kim Beattie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

March 15, 1963

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(These drawings reproduced with the kind permission of the artist, Edward Goodall, and the Illustrated London News, in which they appeared October 15, 1960.)

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Prologue

WHEN the personal imprint of people is both a clear and indelible mark of an institution, it is indeed fortunate. It means that the warmth and light that can come only from the devotion, the love and loyalty of individuals, have moulded its character, and woven the pattern of its life.

Ridley College was so blessed long before it could be mellowed and graced by age. This rare quality, which is only present when the affectionate care and deep pride of men have impregnated brick and stone, was pulsing in the very atmosphere even before the bell-like voices of boys and the clatter of young, hurrying feet had brought the school alive. The empty, echoing building, just converted from a fashionable health resort, had been waiting for the invasion of its first boys for days, in a hushed expectancy pregnant with the hopes and dreams of dedicated founders.

Visitors on Opening Day, September 16, 1889, felt the breath of this all about them, on the lawns and under the trees, and were charmed by it, if they could not name it for what it was. And when the wary, uncertain boys came at last, they were enveloped by its warm friendliness, and at once were less strange and lonely.

Ever since, the strong and wise personalities among Ridley's governors, masters and students, have gone right on leaving their personal imprint.

It is quite true that personal leadership and inspiration are the important attributes of any independent school, or should be, and also that a single forceful individual can affect both the nature and the destiny of a state-controlled educational institution, but Ridley's people have had a peculiarly dominant influence. It was their touch, not school policies, academic honours or institutional achievements, which created and fostered Ridley's traditions, moulded her philosophy of education and school character, inspired her spontaneous and lasting spirit, and kept the College a warm and living thing.

A few Old Riddleians may flinch from the sentimentality, but they will still confirm that a remarkably high proportion of the boys who perhaps may be visualized in this volume as they march from Ridley's portals on each prize day through seventy years, were not to remember Ridley as just a school of their youth, but as something which became an integral part of them, and which they took away with them, proudly, when they left. They had been

touched by the intangibles, by the things of Ridley's atmosphere which are caught and not taught.

It is thus inevitable that the history of Ridley College must primarily be the chronicle of people, even if many important, if mundane, things in Ridley's steady advance as an institution to a proud destiny must also claim a place in the record.

This introduction must also try to set the stage for Ridley's historical story by describing something of the religious, political and social background from which the College emerged. The development of Ridley to maturity from a mere vision, and then a paper school, can only be clearly seen against the perspective of events which took place in Muddy York and frontier Upper Canada in the early years of the last century, when the lusty infant country was suffering chronic growing pains while struggling to set a pattern and find direction for a Canadian way of life.

A prolonged controversy between the various religious denominations in Upper Canada over the increasingly important income from the Clergy Reserves (ecclesiastical Crown Lands), which was simultaneously a thorny political issue, lies in the background of the development in Ontario of all levels of education, and not the least of the church school. The conflict between churchmen and politicians over whether or not education and religion would go forward hand in hand in slowly developing Protestant Canada, which was a particularly cherished Anglican dream, is also an historically significant factor behind all independent Canadian church schools. Then, the heated Anglican theological quarrel, which may have appeared at times to hold the elements of a bitter personal feud between the leaders of the High and Low, or Evangelical Anglicans, but which actually was a clash between deep convictions on differing Anglican theological concepts, had a direct bearing on the founding of Ridley itself.

It all looms faintly now, softened and dimmed by time. The first of the controversies in that fascinating Canadian pioneer period was resolved many years ago, for good or for ill, and it is inconceivable that the Anglican conflict could recur with its old bitterness, yet each of these phases of the past is clearly an historical footnote to the story of Ridley College.

FRONTIER UPPER CANADA

EARLY Protestant missionaries in Upper Canada were educated and generally ordained in the British Isles, but clergymen and teachers were few. As late as 1852, only twenty-six Anglican clergymen were listed in Upper Canada. Forty to fifty years before, when a provincial policy for formal education was not yet even planned seriously, clergymen were of

course fewer still, and teachers even more rare. As a result, most Anglican clergymen also taught, a situation which inevitably, and most certainly understandably, led to the determined attempt by the Church of England to administer education in Protestant Upper Canada. The Anglicans gained great influence politically and, for a time, it appeared they might succeed.

By 1807, eight districts of Upper Canada had grammar schools, and the first serious proposal for an Anglican church school at York dates from July, 1812, with the arrival of the Reverend Dr. John Strachan from Cornwall. He came to the frontier town of 800 people and 120 houses, with perhaps a wider repute as a teacher than a cleric, because he had been principal of the Cornwall Academy, which he had founded 12 years before, and which was renowned as the only college in either Upper or Lower Canada where Protestant youth could obtain a liberal education. But in 1811, John Strachan's *alma mater*, King's College (which formed the University of Aberdeen in 1861 by union with Marischal College) had conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, and now (1812) he had been given the parish of York. But he was still to teach; he was also York Grammar School's "little dominee", with a Scottish burr he never lost. (The school was in a barn at the outskirts of York, close to the present corner of King and Yonge Streets.) He arrived just before war and invasion, and it was not until after the sack of York by the Americans and the other events of the war of 1812 were well in the past, that Dr. Strachan was free to prepare a report (1815) for the Provisional Governor, Sir Gordon Drummond, as he took over from the military authorities, on the state of religion and education in Upper Canada. This officially established Dr. Strachan's high standing as a cleric and educator, and recognized his political and community influence so clearly that for a period he seemed justified in regarding himself as the authorized spokesman and champion of the Church of England in Upper Canada, charged with promoting plans for the moral and religious instruction of all the people. For the moment, he may have felt the colonial status of Upper Canada would be permanent.

It was under his leadership that a prolonged struggle began by the Anglican clergy of York to have the income from the Clergy Reserves – lands set aside to support the Church by the Home Government's Constitutional Act of 1791 – allotted to them alone, and to no other, which they assumed was the original intention because the rapid growth of other religious denominations had not been foreseen by the Home Government.

This interpretation was soon hotly disputed by the clergy of the Church of Scotland and other denominations, with the controversy shortly focused on the Royal Charter, granted in 1827, to establish the first university in Upper Canada, the University of King's College. To assist the proposed new Anglican educational institution, a patent was issued the following year by the Home

Government which granted it £1,000 a year plus an endowment of 225,000 acres of Crown Lands. These were additional "wild lands" to the original Clergy Reserves of 500,000 acres (priced at about ninepence per acre in 1791).

The very extent of the new grant was an invitation to trouble, to opposition and protest. Upper Canada's population was now growing rapidly, with the Anglican majority becoming less and less pronounced. As just one illustration, a large number of Presbyterians had arrived in Upper Canada through Scottish settlement schemes following 1813 and the Napoleonic wars. Further, the Church of Scotland had tenacious leaders, who were fighting hard for equal recognition. The Baptists, Methodists and Roman Catholics were also growing in numbers in Upper Canada, and thus in importance, especially in the view of the politicians.

The men who had worked untiringly for the Charter of King's College were of course Anglicans, and by its terms the Home Government at Westminster clearly intended it to be a Church of England institution. Its president *ex-officio* was to be the Archbishop of York (Dr. John Strachan, appointed archbishop in the same year). The Bishop of Quebec was named Visitor. All members of the Council were to be Anglicans who subscribed to the Thirty-nine Articles; any professor appointed to the Council must be a member of the Church of England. But the new university was to be open to students of all denominations.

The proposed university at this point gave great satisfaction to the Anglican leaders of Upper Canada. They were still strong politically. Dr. Strachan had entered the Government of Upper Canada in 1817, when appointed a regular member of the Executive Council and, in 1823, he was also appointed president of the Board of Education (formally titled "The Board for the General Superintendence of Education"). In 1827-8 he was thus the most eminent Church of England clergyman in Upper Canada, and also an important political personage as the Government's appointee to the top post in education. His political influence was at its zenith.

For the time – which was to be short – it appeared that religion (the Church of England) and education would indeed advance hand in hand in Protestant Canada, now on the verge of marked development.

The exclusive Church of England character of the first proposed Protestant university proved a strategic mistake, for it stiffened opposition to the Anglicans in the ceaseless controversy over the Clergy Reserves. Bishop Strachan has been blamed, but the fault was not his alone. The Home Government had discussed the Charter for a full year, not because they sensed that opposition in Upper Canada might be aroused, but because of its liberality. The Archbishop of Canterbury characterized the Charter as the most liberal ever granted. How inadequately the temper of the religious situation in Canada was understood in England was soon revealed by a storm of protest against both the size of the new endowment to the Church of

England institution, and its exclusive Anglican character. Many joined the outcry who were not affiliated with any religious denomination, but were persuaded injustice was being done.

THE MOVE TO SECULARISM

By now, it was no longer a denominational controversy but a heated political issue in an intense political day. The Anglicans would lose. The set-back was not long in coming for a change in government quickly destroyed the influential position of the Church of England in the political field. It was at once clear for all to see, and perhaps Bishop Strachan should have seen and accepted it, that the Church of England in Canada could not hold the dominant position in politics and government which it held in England. Compromise might have gained more for the Anglicans than blind opposition.

The new lieutenant-governor, Sir John Colborne, at once applied political pressure against Bishop Strachan and the conditions of the Charter for King's College. In 1832 the provincial Board of Education was abolished, and Dr. Strachan automatically lost his post as its president, which he had held for nine years. The whole position of education changed, as the times had changed. Reflecting the rapid growth, in 1834 the town of York, population 9,254, was incorporated as the City of Toronto. In that year the Bishop ceased to attend meetings of the Executive Council. His presence was useless, and unwanted. Sir John then once more successfully delayed action regarding King's College by seeking to have its Council agree to appropriate some of its large endowment for buildings for Upper Canada College. A total of forty-two thousand pounds was diverted, for Sir John was adamant that preparatory and secondary schools should be established and developed before the university.

Bishop Strachan resigned from the Executive Council in 1836, and thus was formally broken the once close and valuable link between the Church of England and the government. The political influence of the Anglicans, so high in 1828, had ebbed to near impotence in less than eight years.

That same year (1836), a Royal Charter was granted to establish Victoria College (Methodist) at Cobourg, and another was planned (granted in 1841) for Queen's College (Presbyterian) at Kingston, so denominational higher education was clearly on the march. But in 1837 – the year of the Mackenzie Rebellion – a political move found the Anglicans helpless to forestall it. Sir Francis Bond Head, last Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, prevailed upon the Council of King's College, in which Bishop Strachan had also lost influence, to permit an amendment to the Royal Charter by provincial legislation.

When passed, the amendment was a shock. The Council of King's College

no longer needed to be comprised solely of Anglicans, and the president of the new university did not even have to be a clergyman.

Protestant Upper Canada was now moving definitely toward secularism in education, and perhaps it could not be stayed. The Anglican dream was growing dim. The amendment, which proved but a prelude to secularism, with its great significance to higher education in the future Ontario, was not immediately implemented in all details, and Bishop Strachan remained for a time as president in name of King's College, but the implication was painfully clear to him and to the other Church of England leaders in Canada.

Then came the Act of Union of 1840, which united Upper and Lower Canada as a single province of Canada, with one legislative assembly, but which heralded still another Anglican political set-back. A compromise suggested by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Home Government in 1840 to settle the dispute over the Clergy Reserves was not acted upon, but it served to increase the uncertainty of the position of King's College. The proposed compromise was to split the Clergy Reserves on a basis of five-twelfths to the Church of England, with the balance divided between the Church of Scotland and the other denominations. A complete about-face had taken place in the viewpoint of the Home Government; for the first time there was evidence of awareness in England of the rising clamour for recognition by the Presbyterians and other Protestant denominations.

Bishop Strachan and his associates accepted as final the division which gave the Anglicans a five-twelfths share, but it was not yet law, and in the end the Anglicans would be given much less.

Such was the uncertain situation in 1842 when Canada's first university, King's College, reached the stage of a cornerstone ceremony. Sir Charles Bagot, first governor-general of Canada, who had been educated at Rugby, presided. The new university opened its doors to students the following year, being temporarily housed in the former Parliament Buildings on Front Street. (*Postscript:* The land acquired for King's College was 150 acres which had avenues of approach from both Yonge Street and Lot, later Queen Street. It cost £4,000, or about \$16,000 in Canadian currency. It was well to the northwest of the business section, situated where the present Parliament Buildings and the University of Toronto now stand.)

The name and character of King's College were both destined to be short-lived. Dr. Strachan had withdrawn in 1847 from active participation in its affairs, and he formally resigned as president in 1848, a year before the full blow fell. After three bills failed to pass the legislature, a new University Act was passed in 1849 which secularized King's College. All religious tests, texts and teachings were abolished.

The policy for higher education in Protestant Canada was thus sealed. It would reflect in the policy for public education on the elementary and

preparatory levels and, in the end, though divinity would be taught in denominational colleges, the only place where education and religion would actually go hand in hand would be in the denominational colleges and in privately financed preparatory church schools.

The secularism of King's College was not achieved without fierce protests by indignant, even infuriated religious groups, but all opposition was in vain.

Dismayed and angry protests against the complete secularization of the first important institution of higher education in Protestant Canada came at once from many religious denominations, with the Auld Kirk Presbyterians, the Methodists and Anglicans perhaps more vociferous than others. They considered it a preposterous outrage, calling the University "a godless institution". Bishop Strachan's term for it was "a godless imitation of Babel". Their consternation was heightened because they foresaw the move meant that secularism could be the ruling policy for higher education in Protestant Canada for perhaps all time to come.

Apart entirely from considerations of the wisdom or lack of it in secularism, it may be fairly said that an official role for the Church in higher education was lost at this particular time because it fell victim to the politicians' struggle to handle the confusion of interests in the social and political evolution taking place in Ontario. Development and growth were very rapid; for instance, Toronto's population was now 30,000, an increase of 20,000 in about fifteen years. To indicate the point of development now reached in Upper Canada, in six years the first train would run between Toronto and Montreal. There was a varied mixture of religious denominations in the expanding province, each demanding recognition and full privileges. The politicians were harried men, for there was pressure from many directions. Apart entirely from being influenced by those educators who argued that secularism was the one efficient method of a liberal education we suspect that the politicians saw it as the only feasible solution in sight. It would at least place all the clamouring religious groups on the same footing, by giving a favoured position to none.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

ON JANUARY 1st, 1850, the first university established in Upper Canada was given a new official name; King's College became the University of Toronto. Any objections to the re-titling were lost amid the protests against its secularism.

It is not possible to detail here the many episodes in the prolonged conflict between the political, educational and religious factions which erupted the moment the University of Toronto was established by the Baldwin (Conservative) Government of Upper Canada. Instead of bringing peace to the

stormy educational scene, the dissension was only intensified. The Liberals of Upper Canada were at once in full cry. No religious group was satisfied. It was at once evident that few people in Upper Canada were ready for secularism in higher education. The principles on which the Hon. Robert Baldwin based the legislation which established the university were to be permanent, but they lacked the essential political ingredient of public support. There were to be occasions when the new university seemed doomed to extinction. The denominational colleges were certainly not ready for a non-sectarian institution, and nearly all sought political support for altered legislation.

"Like other statesmen, Robert Baldwin was sometimes ahead of his time," wrote W. Stuart Wallace, M.A., librarian-historian of the University of Toronto.

The university question was thus destined to be a hot political issue for another twenty-five years or more, but in this condensed review we can only refer to the important moves which were directly related to the affairs and future of the Church of England.

In the next political move (1854) the Anglicans again lost, but this time the Church of Scotland and the other denominations won. Lord Grey, Colonial Secretary, ended the long-drawn-out controversy over the Clergy Reserves by persuading the Home Government to dispose of both the problem and the ecclesiastical Crown Lands by declaring it was up to the provincial legislature alone to handle the whole matter. The Home Government had washed its hands of the distant interdenominational conflict.

The Anglicans at once foresaw another defeat, but may not have realized how serious it was to be. A provincial act was passed to dispose of the lands. It recognized endowment by the Act of 1840 of forty-four Anglican rectories and annual stipends for the Clergy and clergymen's widows, but the balance was divided between all municipalities according to population. The Anglicans considered such a division to be nearly as preposterous as the secularization of King's College in 1849, but it proved to be just as final and permanent.

They could not be blamed for considering their share of Toronto's allotment to be no more than "the wreckage" of the Clergy Reserves, for they had always considered the Act of 1797 setting the lands aside for support of "the Church" meant the Church of England alone. But at least Toronto was the largest municipality, and the Anglican share was substantial. It provided a trust fund of £224,900, which still permits grants for retired and needy Anglican clergymen of Toronto.

There is no doubt of the tremendous contribution made to the Church of England in Canada and to Canadian education by Bishop Strachan; his place in Canadian and Ontario history is secure; yet one cannot help wonder if more could have been salvaged for the principle of a marriage between religion and education if he had been a temperate man. The once strong political voice of

the Anglicans in official Ontario might not have been so completely silenced if their chief spokesman had been more moderate and not so rigid, with wise understanding of the changing social, religious and political scene. An ability to compromise might not have aroused such determined opposition to a special position for the Anglicans in what would soon become the Dominion of Canada. It was stubborn insistence on this which literally forced the intervention of the Government, which led to the fateful decision to secularize education.

The Evangelicals were soon to learn that Bishop Strachan was indeed rigidly uncompromising, that he fought change, and that opposition seemed to arouse his personal resentment. The Toronto Synod knew of his impatience with either criticism or opposition. It was said (by the Reverend Edmund Baldwin, Curate of St. James Cathedral, a convinced Evangelical) that in Synod it was Bishop Strachan's habit not only to control all discussions, but virtually to dictate what others could say. He once called a speaker to order, who had objected: "But I am in the hands of the Synod, my Lord."

"Don't talk nonsense, mahn," retorted the Bishop, "ye are in *my* hands. Sit ye doon, sit ye doon."

Their repeated reverses did not shake the resolution of the Anglicans of Ontario not to surrender to secularization; they remained determined at least to establish a church university of their own. Bishop Strachan was now seventy-two years of age but, in 1850, the year after the University of King's College was secularized, he sailed for the United Kingdom to appeal for a new Royal Charter and for funds. In 1842 he had established the Diocesan Theological Institute at Cobourg, with all candidates for Holy Orders required to take a prescribed course of theological study under the direction of the Rev. A. Neil Bethune, whom he had appointed professor of theology. This was an excellent base for his proposed church university. He had not applied for incorporation of the Institute, but there were references in 1848 to a proposed "Trinity College" for which a Charter was now sought.

After Bishop Strachan returned from London with both funds and the Charter of Trinity assured, organization proceeded quickly, and though finding suitable land was complicated by "the great mania for railroads", an attractive site was obtained north of Queen Street. The cornerstone of Trinity College was laid with a notable ceremony on April 30, 1851.

THE DIVIDED ANGLICANS

NOT long after the establishment of Trinity College a serious division within the Church of England in Canada, because of a difference in theological interpretation, became public knowledge through charges by the Low, or Evangelical Anglicans that the teaching at the new College verged

too closely on Romanism. In common with most religious controversies, there was strong feeling on both sides, with intense bitterness quickly developing. The two leaders were Bishop John Strachan of Toronto Diocese and Bishop Benjamin Cronyn of Huron Diocese. The controversy reached such proportions that it threatened to divide the Church of England seriously, and did – to a diminishing degree, fortunately – for many years.

The Reverend Benjamin Cronyn, D.D., was a native of Kilkenny, Ireland, and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, where he had a distinguished career. He had come to Canada in 1832, and had been very successful as a missionary in the sparsely settled western part of Upper Canada. He was a strong champion of Evangelism, and an adamant opponent of Rationalism and Ritualism. An outspoken cleric, with the zeal of a crusader, his critical attitude toward the theological views of some High Churchmen were well known before he was elected bishop of the new Diocese of Huron, for which he had raised the Endowment Fund in Western Ontario required by the Colonial Secretary before Letters Patent could be issued to establish the new diocese. It consisted of the thirteen western counties. Bishop John Strachan revealed his personal antagonism toward Benjamin Cronyn by opposing his candidature for the new bishopric. T. A. Reed's *History of the University of Trinity College, 1852-1892*, quotes Bishop Strachan: "He (Cronyn) is a Low Churchman and better fitted to be a political agitator than a Bishop."

Such vehement opposition failed to prevent the election of Dr. Cronyn as Bishop of Huron on July 9, 1857, over Archdeacon Neil Bethune, a Strachan pupil and protégé and principal of Bishop Strachan's Divinity School at Cobourg. The election was held by the Synod of Toronto, with Bishop Strachan presiding. The clergy voted 22 to 20 for Cronyn over Bethune, and the laity 23 to 10 in Cronyn's favour. This support by the laity for Benjamin Cronyn reflected the theological rift which was widening between the two Anglican groups. Dr. Cronyn's critical view of the teaching at the Strachan Divinity School was known and particularly resented by the clergy, but by only some of the laity. Dr. A. H. Crowfoot's *Benjamin Cronyn, First Bishop of Huron*, states: "At least two of his (Cronyn's) clergy had tasted the teaching (at Cobourg) . . . and had left in disgust." (*Postscript*: One of these two was Isaac Hellmuth, who was to be the first principal of Huron College.)

Though the result of the election was probably a shock to Bishop Strachan, he called on the Synod to make Bishop Cronyn's appointment unanimous. He must have suspected the opposition he would now encounter from the outspoken Evangelical, for Benjamin Cronyn's election as Bishop of Huron automatically made him a member *ex-officio* of the Corporation of Trinity College. There was already severe friction at Trinity, and now there would be more. The entire Medical Faculty had resigned in a body in 1856, for the early years of Trinity were sometimes stormy. The years in which Bishop Cronyn

was now to be "a thorn in the flesh" of Bishop Strachan, as T. A. Reed expresses it, were the stormiest.

It was on February 4, 1858, when Bishop Cronyn, and five representatives of Huron Diocese, attended a meeting of the Council of Trinity University for the first time, but it was not until June, 1860, that his critical opposition to the teaching at Trinity became publicly discussed. Behind him was the Synod of Huron. Behind Provost Whitaker, who came under attack, was Bishop Strachan and a great majority of the Council. The smouldering Anglican theological controversy was thrown into the open when the Reverend Dr. Adam Townley, of Paris, Ontario, was quoted in the newspapers as saying the Synod of Huron must uphold the University of Trinity College. Bishop Cronyn retorted hotly: "I cannot agree. I have taken every pain for two years to inform myself concerning the teaching at Trinity and cannot approve of it." He then added the criticism that Bishop Strachan had such control of the University through a recently enacted statute that all complaints could be suppressed, even if made by the bishops.

The challenge was now in the open for all to see and judge. Bishop Cronyn issued a pastoral letter in which he characterized the teaching at Trinity as "dangerous in the extreme – unsound and un-Protestant".

That autumn, Bishop Cronyn's charges were detailed in a letter to "The Clerical and Lay Gentlemen of the Diocese of Huron", which appeared in the *Colonial Church Chronicle* of London, issue of November, 1860. He charged that the Provost's teaching included or implied:

- " (1) that the Church of England had lost at the Reformation some things which were in themselves edifying (*e.g.* Reservation of the Sacrament for the sick);
- (2) undue exaltation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by asserting that she was an instrument in bringing mankind into the Kingdom of Heaven;
- (3) The Communion of Saints; *i.e.* that departed friends might pray for those on earth;
- (4) that there were five other sacraments besides 'the two generally necessary to Salvation';
- (5) the interpretation of the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel as applying to the Holy Eucharist which was a Romanist doctrine;
- (6) a teaching on baptismal regeneration which was also Romanist."

The element of a personal feud in the controversy – to which many references have since been made – was injected solely by Bishop Strachan's attitude; he saw the attack as an affront to him personally, and a challenge to his personal eminence and religious views. The feud was one-sided; to Bishop Cronyn the issue was far above personalities; there is nothing in the extensive documentation of the controversy to say that he resorted to personalities

beyond his naming of Provost Whitaker as responsible for Trinity's teaching policy. He did not publicly name Bishop Strachan, but the Scottish cleric devoted the entire session of a meeting of the Toronto Synod to a defence of himself, because he saw the attack on Trinity's teaching as a personal attack. He said: "In the fifty-eighth year of my ministry I am called upon for the first time to prove my orthodoxy. . . . In making these accusations against the College he is making them against me, for of all men I am most responsible for the teaching. . . .

"If the Bishop of Huron is dissatisfied with Trinity, let him establish his own Divinity School. I did this at Cobourg. Let the Bishop of Huron do the same thing."

Bishop Cronyn's plans to do exactly this were already far forward. In October that year he had sent Dr. Isaac Hellmuth to England to raise funds among the Evangelicals for "a sound Evangelical College from which men could be sent forth to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all godly simplicity and fullness".

Dr. Hellmuth reported on the controversy in Canada in detail to a group of clerics at Islington, England. He said: "Evangelical men are at a very great discount in Upper and Lower Canada. An effort is being made to rear a hierarchial structure which will not strengthen the cause of Protestant and Evangelical truth." Bishop McIlwaine of Ohio was present; he confirmed Dr. Hellmuth's report on the plight of the Evangelicals in Canada.

That such things should be said abroad was strongly resented by the Metropolitan (the Bishop of Montreal), but nothing could now deter Bishop Cronyn in his determination to found his own school of divinity. Throughout 1861 he was collecting funds.

When the Council of Trinity finally refused his motion in February, 1862, to condemn Provost Whitaker's teaching at Trinity, Bishop Cronyn won approval of a motion to set up a committee to receive his objections in writing. They were published under the title, *The Bishop of Huron's Objections to the Teachings at Trinity College*. (Canon A. T. Appleyard stated in a thesis on the Origins of Huron College that a reply to this document by the 37-year-old Bishop Travers Lewis, of the new (1861) Diocese of Ontario, was "the most heated and scathing document in the whole controversy".)

The ultimate defeat of the Evangelical churchmen in their attempt to alter the theological teachings of Trinity College was probably foreordained because the bishoprics of the Church of England hierarchy in Canada were still largely held by High Churchmen; at least, Bishop Cronyn's opposition was certainly greatly in the majority among the clerics. This was soon disclosed. All Trinity papers relating to the case were submitted to the Metropolitan and the other Canadian bishops for examination. By majority vote in September, 1863, Provost Whitaker was vindicated by the Synod of

the Diocese of Toronto, the new Synod of Ontario and the House of Bishops.

It was by one of his last official acts as chancellor of Trinity in 1863, when he was succeeded by Chief Justice Sir John Beverley Robinson, that Bishop Strachan requested the Council of Trinity to adopt a motion which formally vindicated Provost Whitaker. Sixteen voted in favour, and eight votes were opposed, including those of Bishop Cronyn and his supporters from the Synod of Huron, plus the Very Rev. H. J. Grasset, Dean of St. James' Cathedral, and the Honourable Mr. Spragge, Vice-Chancellor of Trinity.

Thereupon the Bishop of Huron and his supporters withdrew from all association with Trinity College. It was still September, 1863.

A slim volume, entitled *The Gospel in Canada*, was published a short while later which was of great value in convincing Evangelicals throughout Canada that the new Evangelical Divinity School about to open in London, Ontario, was worthy of their support. It contained a solemn, scholarly protest by Bishop Cronyn and his supporters against the vindication of the teaching at Trinity.

That was the last word, for the moment.

HURON AND WYCLIFFE COLLEGES

THE sternly critical attitude of the Evangelicals toward the Romanist features in the teaching at Trinity was neither diluted nor diverted by the victory for the defence. That their views were of long standing, and had only now come into the open for judgment by all Anglican laymen, is apparent in the earlier planning, and then the decision in 1860 by Bishop Cronyn, to establish a diocesan college at London, Ontario, in the Diocese of Huron. He and his supporters had foreseen years before that it might be necessary to establish a college of their own where theology could be taught as they believed it should be taught. In the same fateful month and year – September 1863 – Bishop Cronyn was ready. As he and his supporters withdrew from Trinity's affairs, Huron College was declared open at London, Ontario. The official ceremony was held on December 6.

It was the first Evangelical educational institution in Canada.

Bishop Cronyn had bought in 1862 an estate of fourteen acres called Rough Park, on the outskirts of London. This site for the new college was beautifully situated on wooded land sloping down to the Thames. Archdeacon Isaac Hellmuth was the first principal of Huron College, and Bishop Cronyn's son-in-law, Edward Blake, handled all legal matters required in founding the new institution.

Bishop McIlwaine of Ohio delivered the inaugural address, expressing his delight that the words "Protestant" and "Evangelical" had been written into the Constitution of Huron College because, he said, "The Canaanite is still in

the land." He declared Huron College would be a strong wall of defence. (*Postscript*: In 1951, the original Huron College property was sold, and the college moved to its present site facing the campus of its "daughter", the University of Western Ontario, for which the first steps had not been taken until 1877.)

Unhappily, the last was not yet heard of the bitter theological controversy, though at this distant day it may be difficult to understand. The late Professor George M. Wrong, who was active in founding Ridley, and who was often a valuable adviser and also a member of the Board of Directors, looked back on the dissension many years later and effectively placed it in correct perspective with today in these words:

"In those days there were strong antagonisms on both sides, happily now softened. It is not easy today to realize how acute were the differences. Time has shown there was room for both systems. Time has also brought the wisdom of co-operation in education.

"Trinity has linked itself with the state system, and Trinity College is now an Arts College in the University of Toronto. Today, not many persons sending a child to one of the schools (T.C.S., Bishop Strachan, Ridley, Havergal) would be disturbed by any thought of theological differences. It is well that there should be a variety of opinion. A complacent uniformity is not enterprising in the pursuit and discovery of truth."

In the mid-1800s and later, however, there was only further evidence to illustrate why Christianity has survived the changing social trends and philosophies of two thousand years: Christian leaders will not accept defeat, and a set-back is a spur. The Trinity victory over them was just that to the steadily growing body of Evangelical Anglicans. Though some of the vexing controversies over educational policy in Protestant Canada seemed to be settled for good or for ill, and though it was vainly hoped the historic political development of Confederation would at once assure interprovincial peace and ethnic unification, the Evangelicals at Toronto were far from surrendering to the situation. Huron College at London was not enough.

The truth was, the publicized charges of Romanism in the teachings at Trinity College had both solidified them and acted like a trumpet call to increase their numerical strength very substantially. They were no longer the insignificant segment of the Church of England in Canada they had been considered a few years earlier by the High Churchmen.

For the first years after Confederation, the Evangelical Anglicans of Central Ontario may have seemed to mark time, but they were actually imbued with an inexorable determination to found their own institution in the Diocese of Toronto where their children could be given religious education and training in theology in accordance with their convinced beliefs. The University of

Toronto was so divorced from religion there was not even a Faculty of Divinity. Trinity College granted degrees in arts, medicine and divinity, but its theological teachings were those which the Evangelicals disputed. Despite their increasing numbers, the Evangelicals were not wealthy, and as they could not expect aid from government sources, much personal sacrifice would be needed. (As in the United Kingdom, the Church of England in Canada did not itself establish and administer educational institutions; this was left largely to lay churchmen.)

Their inability to organize and erect an imposing theological college at once in Toronto did not discourage them, nor was their determination lessened by frequent biting references to them at Trinity, such as the need to take care "not to give occasion to the enemy to blaspheme". Such jibes had continued ever since the defeat of the Evangelicals in 1863, which was not conducive to a softening in their resentment over the peremptory manner in which their views on the teachings at Trinity had been rejected.

There were many High Churchmen who still thought this controversy only appeared serious because of the impression they had that it was largely a personal feud between two bishops. They were now to discover that the rift in the Church of England was widening, that it was far beyond personalities, and always had been, and that many hundreds of prominent Anglicans now held the Evangelical view. The crossroad was being reached.

The Evangelicals knew from the outset that plans for a Toronto college would only be pressed forward in an atmosphere of bitter internal religious strife, and there is no more bitter quarrel between men. The first public announcement of their proposal to establish a separate divinity college in Toronto caused such vehement antagonism that it made the original dissension seem like a preliminary skirmish. It did not move the Evangelicals from their unswerving purpose.

Wycliffe College was the direct result of two moves by the Evangelicals, both based on the formation of organizations which could act with more authority and force than a group of loosely associated individuals. The first, in 1868, was the creation of the Evangelical Association of the United Church of England and Ireland in the Diocese of Toronto. Its declared purpose was to secure the rights of the laity. The second, in 1873, was the formation of the famous Church Association, to resist "tractarianism, ritualism, rationalism, or what ever other movements threaten to undo the great work of the Reformation". Both organizations were to have great meaning to Wycliffe and Ridley colleges. Behind each were the earnest, devout and honourable group of men who became founders of, first, the theological college and, second, the preparatory school; such men as these: A. H. Campbell, N. W. Hoyles (first president of Wycliffe); J. Herbert Mason (long president of Ridley); Prof. Daniel Wilson (later Sir Daniel, president of the University of Toronto);

Col. Gzowski (later Sir Casimir), a member of Ridley's Board of Directors; Chief Justice Draper; the Hon. Edward Blake; the Hon. S. H. Blake and B. Homer Dixon, all three members of Ridley's Board; R. Millichamp, another Ridley Board member, and the Rev. Mr. Septimus Jones, a staunch friend of Ridley's for many years.

The first appeal by the Church of England Evangelical Association on March 1, 1869, was a call to the Synod delegates strenuously to oppose ritualism and sacerdotalism. Their second appeal to members was to object to the preponderance of power being placed with those clergy and laity whose views were repugnant to a large proportion of the Evangelical laity. They appealed to the Church of England as a whole to maintain "her Protestantism in the rejection of all those errors by which the churches before the Reformation had obscured the Gospel of Christ". The High Churchmen had to take notice, for the Toronto Evangelicals obviously were organized now; the voice of a growing group was speaking.

An astonishing, and strategically important, episode then intervened, which was to have a striking influence on still further solidification of the Evangelicals. A leading layman was startled to discover that the manual of the Confraternity of Blessed Sacrament was actually in use in Toronto, that a branch of the Confraternity was active in the city, that presiding over it was a clergyman of the Diocese, and that "ritualistic teaching of the most extreme type was percolating into various parishes of the Diocese".

Armed with the evidence, Chief Justice Draper, Prof. Daniel Wilson and Colonel Gzowski called upon the Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto (Bethune). The result was amazing. An excited and indignant controversy erupted which had an astonishing climax: *a majority vote in a hastily called Synod excluded Evangelical clergy and laity from all its offices and committees!*

Amid a wave of outraged protest, the Church Association was then formed with 235 of the most prominent Anglicans in Ontario on its roll, including many who were powerful politically. The Church Association had five elements to its Constitution which, summed up, told of an adamant and concerted resistance to Romanism by all its members.

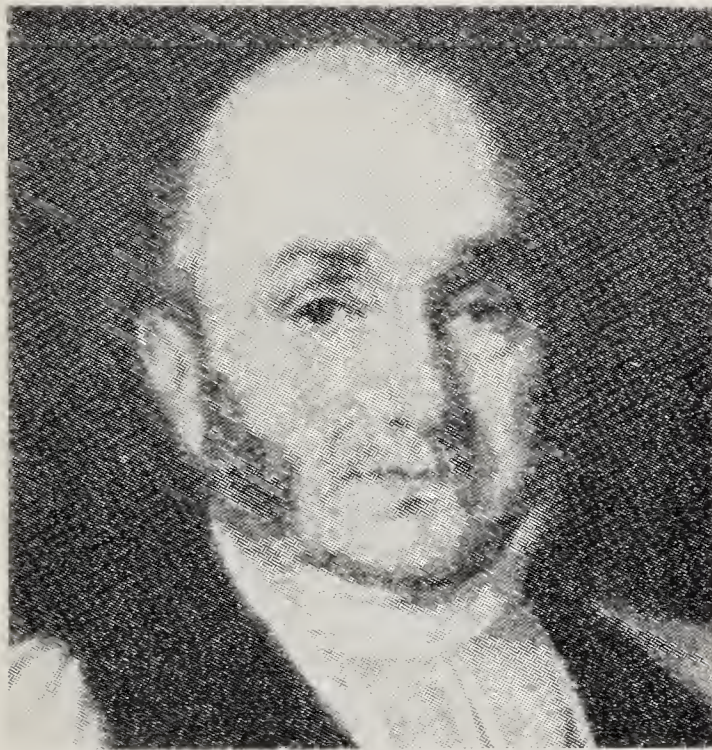
And, simultaneously, a great resolve was taken for positive action at once toward the final goal: Wycliffe College.

The Synod had made a strategic mistake; the Evangelicals, cast adrift, were now so fiercely determined to have their way that they could never be denied. The Church Association passed a unanimous resolution to undertake "a training establishment for young men of sound Evangelical views". Once again, the protests of the High Anglicans rose high, angrily and vociferously, with the entire Anglican Church at Toronto "noisy with the strife of tongues". In the public press, charges of "disloyalty and lawlessness" were made against

First Anglican Evangelical College



HURON COLLEGE, LONDON, ONT.
Founded 1863



FOUNDER OF HURON COLLEGE
The Rt. Rev. Benjamin Cronyn, D.D.
The Lord Bishop of Huron
(1805-1875)



THE BEGINNING

The Protestant Episcopal Divinity School, founded 1877 . . . first class-room, in old schoolhouse of St. James Cathedral, Toronto.

The Buildings of Wycliffe College



THE FIRST WYCLIFFE COLLEGE

opened 1882
On College St., opposite McCaul St.



TODAY'S WYCLIFFE COLLEGE

opened 1891
The entrance on Hoskin Avenue.

the Evangelicals. They were also made formally in the Synod, with the authority of the Bishop invoked to "arrest this anti-Church and anti-episcopal association".

Bishop Bethune responded, weakly at first, and then in such a drastic way that his poor judgment smacked of desperation. He at first issued an indecisive pastoral which, of course, did not deter the Evangelicals, but a year later (December, 1874) another pastoral declared the Church Association tended to bring the legitimate and recognized institutions of the Church into discredit. It was the year of the final crisis. The Synod made a second mistake, with desperation to halt the growth of the Evangelicals the only possible explanation for a drastic action. Some of the clergy who were leaders of the Church Association, and who would help found Wycliffe College, were impeached. By direction of Bishop Bethune, lifelong friend of Bishop Strachan, they were summoned to trial.

Then occurred the strangest scene of the entire course of the theological controversy between the High and Low churchmen of the Anglican Church in Canada. As the *Jubilee Volume of Wycliffe College* records it: "For the first time probably in the history of the Church of England in Canada, a body of the most honoured and most revered clergy of the Church were brought before a Bishop's Commission and tried as depravers of the government and discipline of the Church." Two thousand prominent laymen rose in protest, with such a spirit of righteous indignation marking them that Dr. Crowfoot said: "It has never been equalled in this land." A manifesto from the two thousand was presented to Bishop Bethune. Among the names were those of men who stood foremost in the Church of England in Canada. That some of the ablest men in the country were in conscientious opposition could not be mistaken.

The trial came to nothing.

The Evangelicals had won. If they had not yet established their right to their own institutions, such tactics as these were stopped.

Further, just as the controversy over the teachings at Trinity had rallied many indecisive Anglicans to the cause of the Evangelicals, the ill-judged actions of the Bishop and Synod were another trumpet call; the Evangelicals again grew in strength, and were welded together in their purpose more firmly than ever. New friends had also been won in political and religious circles generally.

Their next step proved a wise move. They founded an organ for the propagation of their principles – *The Evangelical Churchman* (May, 1876). It was not long before its articles were gaining widespread readership and support. This was one of the last acts of the Church Association, and one of its most valuable.

There was still relentless opposition from the Bishop and the Synod, but

it was in an atmosphere of comparative peace to that of 1874 that the Evangelicals chose a name and incorporated their new theological college: Protestant Episcopal Divinity School. As this was announced, the controversy erupted once more, but this time the Evangelicals had their new publication to press their case before the Church and public. To understand the strength of this aid, it is necessary to realize that public assemblies and the written word were the only means of communication. Nearly all publications of the time were founded to support a cause – a religious denomination, a political party, anti-slavery, temperance, the Orange movement, political reform, or one side or the other of the conflict over ritualism within the Church of England. The most vituperative period in Canadian journalism had outlasted the radical press, abruptly ended by the rebellion of 1837, but it, too, was now passing. An extraordinary number of dailies and weeklies had disappeared in the 1860s owing to amalgamations or economics, including the *Echo and Protestant Episcopal Recorder*, founded to oppose the *Church*, an unofficial Church of England weekly, founded in 1837 by the Rev. Alexander Neil Bethune, to defend the privileges of the Church of England and the Family Compact. The *Echo and Protestant Episcopal Reporter* accused the *Church* of Tractarianism and Romanism. Its last issue was published in 1867. The new *Evangelical Churchman* was thus needed.

“Looking back from the standpoint of today it is almost amazing to think of the opposition to the new Divinity School,” wrote Dr. Crowfoot in the *Wycliffe Jubilee Volume*. Letters of remonstrance appeared in the daily press, with the internal Anglican controversy once more given great prominence in the *Mail*, the *Leader*, the *Globe* and the newly founded *Telegram*. Two of the religious denominational publications in 1876 were the *Canadian Baptist* and the *Christian Journal*, organ of the Primitive Methodists; they mildly supported the Evangelicals.

The violent series of denunciations by the High Churchmen finally found a climax in a notice of motion to the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto:

“The announcement made in the so-called *Evangelical Churchman* that a School of Theology is to be opened under the auspices of the Church Association is to be condemned by every Churchman as destructive to the welfare of the Church in this diocese. And this Synod now respectfully requests the Lord Bishop of the diocese to refuse his countenance to the same, and publicly to declare that he will neither ordain nor license any who may be presented from the said theological school.”

The Evangelicals saw this attack as an attempt to crush by a policy of repression the work they had started and meant to finish, but they pleaded in dignified language for comprehension: “All that we ask is to be allowed quietly and without threatenings and misrepresentations to educate our men.”

They had already proceeded, for it was in 1877 that the new college was

ready as a base for today's Wycliffe College. From Pictou, Nova Scotia, had come the Reverend Dr. James Patterson Sheraton, "an earnest and outspoken clergyman, a born leader and teacher of men". He threw himself into the task of creating a college with "the zeal of an apostle and the ability of a scholar". Soon to be affectionately known as "The Little Doctor", he moved at once into a make-shift office in the former infant class of the old St. James School-house, where the new divinity school would first live.

On October 1, 1877, the little theological class opened its doors to nine pupils. Dr. James P. Sheraton, B.A., D.D., LL.D., was principal, and sole full-time professor. There were, however, part-time professors; the students trudged to their homes to hear their lectures.

In 1879, Bishop Bethune died and was replaced by a compromise candidate, Archdeacon Sweatman of Huron, who was only elected because the Evangelicals agreed to abolish the Church Association if the name of Provost Whitaker of Trinity College was withdrawn as a candidate. At a meeting of fifteen hundred Evangelicals, called to dissolve the Association, the Hon. S. H. Blake, a great Latin Scholar given to frequent quotations in Latin even in conversation, and one of the most ardent of all Evangelicals, told the assembly that they had achieved their Divinity School, which was all they wanted: "We have won our rights; we are guaranteed our institutions; we are satisfied."

In his first address to the Synod on June 11, 1879, Bishop Sweatman must have shocked the High Churchmen by bluntly declaring: "I hold most strongly the Protestant Evangelical views of our Reformed Church, as opposed to the sacerdotal and sacramentarian views which are characteristic of Romanism. I have laid claim to the further character of being an Evangelical Churchman.

"Why, it has been asked," he went on, "should any clergyman wish to make his church such that a common man, placed suddenly within, would not be able to say whether he was in a Church of England or a Romish place of worship?" (*Postscript*: It seems ironical that it should be Bishop Sweatman who wrote to Trinity College in 1903, expressing a sense of bitterness toward Wycliffe and Huron Colleges and the Evangelical Anglicans generally. He now blamed them for the economic difficulties of Trinity College, which had forced it into federation with the University of Toronto.)

And now for Wycliffe College, at last! In 1879, the Protestant Episcopal Divinity School was incorporated as Wycliffe College, with self-government provided by a Board of Trustees, which perpetuates itself and annually elects a Council for management. In March, an architect, W. G. Storm, had started on plans for the new college building, which was to be "a beautiful, red-brick, scholastic Gothic structure".

A strange episode then intruded which left in the record the only instance of serious dissension among the Evangelicals. It arose through the wish

expressed by the Bishop of Toronto that instead of establishing a new college, the Evangelicals' Divinity School should merge with Trinity College. Apparently the new Wycliffe Board of Management felt it must try to conform by making the first move toward conciliation. At a meeting in February, 1880, Chairman S. H. Blake and Secretary N. W. Hoyles were instructed by the Board to deliver resolutions proposing amalgamation to both the Bishop and Trinity College. The scheme came to nothing. Thirty days later the Board met to cancel the proposal and recall it. Unhappily, this was too late to prevent the resignations from the Wycliffe Board in protest of Mr. Robert Baldwin and Mr. W. H. Howland, who had been only second to Mr. Blake as a driving force for the new college.

Nothing more intervened. The cornerstone of the new Wycliffe building was laid in 1861; it was completed during the summer of 1862. It was on College Street, opposite McCaul Street, just about where the School of Practical Science now stands.

This is always remembered as the original Wycliffe College. It was opened with vast satisfaction on October 24, 1882. An addition was built in 1885, and in 1890 the foundation work was started for a new, more commodious structure on Hoskin Avenue, where Wycliffe College stands today. The College Street building was sold back to the University of Toronto. In 1925, Trinity also erected a new building – on Hoskin Avenue – directly across the street from Wycliffe. ("Time plays strange tricks," commented W. Stewart Wallace, M.A., in the *History of the University of Toronto, 1827-1927*.)

This extremely condensed account of the flow of events in education and religion in Ontario in distant years must not neglect to record the greatly improved atmosphere in which higher education was now developing, with marked progress achieved in unification and consolidation. During the 1880s, a prolonged series of conferences, debates and exchanges of opinions between the University, the Government and the various independent colleges, instigated largely by the Hon. George A. Ross, Minister of Education for Ontario, led directly to affiliation of other institutions with the provincial university.

The new conciliatory attitude was achieved by the good judgment of the Federation Act of 1877. Behind the legislation had been years of political struggle from the moment the question of a university in Upper Canada became a government responsibility. There had been acrid debates and sharp differences between the independent colleges which often seemed beyond solving, and also such strife within the Senate of the University of Toronto, which was precariously constituted until amendments achieved a workable governing body, that the institution of higher learning was sometimes threatened with extinction. The most threatening point had been in 1863.

"It is doubtful if our men realize how narrowly the university escaped extinction," said Sir Daniel Wilson much later.

It was acknowledged that the university had been saved by two men. They had successfully blocked a proposal which could have been fatal by the Rev. Dr. Egerton Ryerson, Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada and then of the Province of Ontario (1884-77), whose great, lasting achievement was in Ontario legislation for the public and separate schools. They were Adam Crooks and Edward Blake. The latter was a founder of Wycliffe College and he would be a member of the Provisional Board which founded Bishop Ridley College, and it was Adam Crooks who later succeeded the Rev. Dr. Ryerson in the top educational post in the Government of Ontario. He had been Vice-Chancellor of the university from 1873, and had continued to work with Edward Blake and other supporters toward federation legislation which would both secure the university financially and be acceptable to the critical independent colleges. Edward Blake had been briefly a prime minister of Ontario (1871) and had then turned to federal politics, as a successful Liberal M.P. He became Chancellor of the University of Toronto in 1876, holding the post until 1890. Though engrossed with party politics as national leader of the Liberals after 1881, he was also a leader in the movement which finally achieved the Federation Act of 1887, which brought the first real peace to the troubled educational scene. Under the situation which prevailed it was wise and statesmanlike legislation, if it also marked the permanent sealing of the non-sectarian nature of higher education in Ontario.

Others credited by W. Stewart Wallace with playing strong parts in achieving the measure were William (later Sir William) Mulock, Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1881, and Nathanael Burwash, later Chancellor of Victoria University, which became a college. Obviously, credit was also due to the Hon. George Ross and the Hon. Oliver Mowat (both later knighted), the minister of education and prime minister of Ontario.

Three denominational colleges did not wait for the Federation Act of 1887. Wycliffe College probably agreed to affiliation with less heartburning than any of the other denominational colleges. "The Founders of Wycliffe College from the very beginning regarded its affiliation with the provincial university as one of the most important of its privileges," wrote the Reverend Professor Dyson Hague in the College history. In 1885, through the practical co-operation of President Sir Daniel Wilson, Wycliffe College was affiliated to the university by statute of the university's Senate, confirmed by the Governor-in-Council. By an act of the Ontario Legislature, Wycliffe College was then officially federated to the university in 1899.

"It enabled the men who entered Wycliffe to feel that they were in a position to secure the highest possible education that the Province afforded," said Professor Hague.

St. Michael's College (Roman Catholic) and the Toronto Baptist College (later McMaster) also seized the opportunity very early to supplement their denominational support and to provide the great resources of a large well-

equipped university for their faculty and students. In 1900 Victoria College (Methodist) and Knox (Presbyterian) were also federated. Only Trinity College remained stubbornly independent. It did not federate with the university until 1903, when economic conditions forced the move. It was then made unwillingly.

The one thing which Wycliffe College claimed as a right but was denied was the power to confer degrees in theology. Because of its recognized standing in the Church of England, its successive boards of management sought the privilege for years. The right was not secured until 1916 when the Ontario Legislature passed an act giving Wycliffe College broader powers, including the right to confer degrees in divinity. The first degree was conferred in 1917.

In commenting upon the affiliation of Wycliffe with the university, Mr. T. A. Reed paid this tribute to the College:

“Since that time its (Wycliffe’s) students have had access to the lectures and laboratory classes of the University and have exerted in the life of the University an influence out of proportion to their numbers.

“Many of the graduates of the College have come to occupy positions of outstanding importance in the Church of England; and it is a striking fact that the first foreign missionary ever sent forth by the Church of England in Canada went from Wycliffe College.

“Indeed, all the foreign missionary bishops of the Church of England in Canada are graduates of Wycliffe College.

“Principal Sheraton, a man of gentle and truly Christian spirit, who exerted at times a salutary influence in the councils of the University, presided over the affairs of the College until his death in 1906.”

This rapprochement between Wycliffe College and the University of Toronto in the 1880s, which were momentous years educationally in Ontario if they were also controversial, was again noticeable when Principal Sheraton of Wycliffe found strong support from Sir Daniel Wilson, President of the University of Toronto, in the Evangelicals’ next educational forward move – Ridley.

The leading role played by both these noted educators in turning discussion into the positive action required to create Ridley College should be remembered by all Ridleians.

The founding of Wycliffe had been the long step forward, but even in the heat of the theological controversy from which Wycliffe emerged, the need for a preparatory church school for boys had often been discussed. Ridley was a child of controversy, too.

Trinity College was to have both a boys’ and a girls’ school (Trinity College School, Port Hope, established in 1870, and Bishop Strachan’s School, established 1888) but the theological barrier which had come between the two Church of England groups in Canada was still far too rigid for the

Evangelicals to send their children to either. Indeed, in 1888, when plans for Ridley College were completed, this still would have been unthinkable. The intensity of feeling later eased for most, if by no means all the Evangelicals, but at this moment they were as fiercely intent upon creating Ridley as they had been to found Wycliffe.

Only by establishing a church school could secularism be thwarted below university level. In no other way could education and their theological principles walk hand in hand for their sons from an early age, as they had so long dreamed. They must bring this to reality.

The earnest, purposeful founders of Ridley might be delayed, but they would never be diverted.

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Volume One

Ridley

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The Founding

*“. . . that religion and education
would walk quietly hand in hand.”*

THE third week in September, 1888, was unseasonably wet and blowsy; instead of bright, early-autumn suns, the rain had been sheeting down at intervals to keep the taverns full and the traffic thin on Toronto's downtown streets. If a bespattered carriage dared forth it splashed mire over irately protesting pedestrians on the wooden sidewalks, to inspire another round of caustic criticism of the young city's administration. Weren't the ditches plugged and overflowing just as they were last spring? Wasn't the mud boot-top deep at the crossings even at the King and Yonge corner? Everyone was recalling that this was called Muddy York not very long ago, and declaring it was still a town in a mud-puddle.

During the morning of the 25th, it was probably still raining, but two messengers left the study of Dr. James Sheraton, Principal of Wycliffe College, on College Street. One headed north with a letter for the office of Sir Daniel Wilson, President of the University of Toronto, and the other south for that of Alderman George Gillespie, Q.C., a solicitor in the new business building called Manning Chambers (Arcade) on King Street. Dr. Sheraton was calling an unexpectedly early meeting of the earnest group of Anglican laymen and clerics who had been seriously discussing the establishment of a new church school for boys for five years and more. They had reached the stage of definite planning early in '88. They were now ready for final decisions and, as the Reverend C. J. James of Saint John, N.B. was in town, Dr. Sheraton wanted the group to have the advantage of his advice. His letter urged Mr. Gillespie to invite all interested gentlemen to a meeting at Wycliffe College in two days. He had asked Sir Daniel Wilson, President of the University of Toronto, to preside.

The solicitor could not help but be aware of the slowness of the post, and the erratic time-table of the Grand Trunk Railway, for the politicians were under fire about both in the public prints. As it was imperative to get Dr.

Sheraton's message to St. Catharines quickly, it is likely Mr. Gillespie ordered a mounted messenger from a livery stable and repository; it was business custom, in emergencies. The lake boat was also not reliable; it crossed only three times a week in late September unless business warranted special trips. In any event, the word was carried in time to the Reverend W. J. Armitage of St. Thomas' Church, St. Catharines, and also to Mr. T. R. Merritt, one of his parishioners, who was a vice-president of the Imperial Bank.

Before dark on September 25, the same summons had been passed to Mr. A. H. Campbell, whose office was also in the Manning Arcade, and it had also reached the Reverend J. O. Miller, in the office of the *Evangelical Churchman*. Also, Messrs. Stapleton Caldecott, G. E. Gillespie, H. P. Hobson, N. W. Hoyles, Q.C., H. Mortimer and Fred J. Stewart, all devout Evangelical Anglicans and prominent figures in the business and professional life of Toronto, had each been notified.

There still exists a time-worn black book, titled: *The Minute Book of Bishop Ridley College, Volume I*. The first entry is dated:

“Wycliffe College, 27th September, 1888”

This was the historic organizational meeting which Dr. Sheraton had called through hand-carried messages on the 25th. Every gentleman invited was in attendance. As requested, Sir Daniel Wilson acted as chairman. Mr. Stewart was asked to take the minutes.

Despite earlier meetings and decisions in 1888, it was at this memorable meeting on September 27 in the Principal's study at Wycliffe College that Bishop Ridley College was founded. (*Postscript*: The name of the new school was not formally adopted until the application was made for a charter. There was tacit agreement on Bishop Ridley College; no other name was ever suggested.) This was the founding date because from this meeting the physical school was assured. In just one year it would be in operation. A resolution to give that assurance was the first item formally placed on the record: it was moved by N. W. Hoyles and seconded by Stapleton Caldecott, and passed unanimously –

- (1) That a Church School for boys conducted on thoroughly sound Evangelical and Protestant principles, where the highest religious and secular training shall go hand in hand, is not only needed but imperatively demanded to meet the pressing needs of our Church at the present time.
- (2) That a school is needed to prepare the youth of our Church who now go elsewhere for a subsequent education in the University of Toronto and in Wycliffe College; and
- (3) That this meeting pledges itself to aid in the establishment of such a school, at the earliest possible time.

That planning was far advanced is evident in the reports presented. They had actually taken up where plans for a boys' church school had broken off in 1884, when the purchase of a vacant Quaker school at Pickering, Ont. had been seriously contemplated. Several of the 1884 group were present, including Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Campbell.

A report by the Reverend John Ormsby Miller revealed that they were down to the hard facts of school operation. He had a statement prepared giving estimated expenditures and income, based on a school of 100 boys.

The site had been agreed upon on September 1 – "if the price is right". This was why it had been so necessary to have the Reverend Mr. Armitage and Mr. Merritt present from St. Catharines; they had been completing investigations of a property called Springbank Sanatorium there, which the Reverend Mr. Armitage and Mr. Merritt had located and were urging as the site. They now reported on its probable cost and availability, and formally proposed its purchase. As a health resort it had been valued at \$75,000, but it was a defunct watering place; a former patient owned it through a mortgage, so they were confident that the sale price would be reasonable. (Within a few days, the price was set at \$15,000, with acceptance within ninety days from September 1.) Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Stewart had visited Springbank at the invitation of the Rev. Mr. Armitage, and both warmly endorsed the proposal. They assured the meeting that the building could easily be converted to a school, and was beautifully situated.

That was convincing. It was agreed to proceed with the purchase; a motion was at once passed for the conclusive step. It authorized immediate organization of a joint stock company with a capital of \$50,000. Each member of the meeting personally subscribed for stock, and agreed that the first call on them should be for enough cash to cover preliminary expenses.

The historic decisions and action at this single meeting sealed the choice of St. Catharines as Ridley's future home, and designated those who attended as the founders. (The same group were members of the first Provisional Board of Directors, formed on November 29.)

There was one other action taken, which clearly indicates the decisive nature of the meeting. That the group of founders felt any further obstacles could be easily overcome is obvious in the committee which was set up just before adjournment; it was to investigate candidates and nominate a school principal – "the important thing". Dr. Sheraton was appointed its chairman.

There was a long way to go, but as these earnest churchmen left Wycliffe College very late on the afternoon of September 27, they felt a glow of satisfaction, as if their long-dreamed school were already a reality. To them, the rest seemed anti-climax but, instead, the real work would only now begin.

Formalities did move quickly. Dr. Sheraton presented his committee's recommendation for headmaster to an even larger meeting in Manning Arcade

on November 29, but he had actually made their nomination ten days before in this letter to the provisional president:

Wycliffe College

Toronto.
November 19, 1888.

My Dear Mr. Merritt:

I thank you very much for your letter which I read to the Committee. Its members, besides ourselves, Sir Daniel Wilson, Mr. A. H. Campbell and Mr. Hoyles, agreed in the conviction that Mr. Miller was by far the best name before them and would prove an efficient and successful Principal.

We accordingly nominate him.

If he accepts, I hope the work will now be pushed on and with God's blessing prove a great success.

Believe me, ever yours faithfully,

Jas. D. Sheraton.

That the Reverend Mr. Miller did accept is something which all Ridleians of the future could mark with gratitude. He was not only to labour prodigiously to launch the new school, it was John Ormsby Miller who was to mould and guide Ridley from its first day, instilling his principles and integrity and impregnating the School with his own great faith and unquenchable spirit. His personal imprint was to become indelible, so that all who graduated from Ridley took away something of him.

A trim dark beard belied his youth; he was just twenty-seven.

His appointment was approved unanimously, with three Anglican clerics present as observers: J. M. Baldwin, Septimus Jones and A. C. Miles, all close friends of the Principal-elect. (*Postscript*: In the *Jubilee Volume of Wycliffe College*, the Venerable Archdeacon W. J. Armitage wrote (1927) that "the appointment of the Rev. John Ormsby Miller as Principal perhaps was first suggested and certainly pressed by Dr. N. W. Hoyles . . . a most happy one".)

At this meeting (November 29), the first full Provisional Board of Directors was appointed, with power to increase their numbers. The list discloses that the intention at that time was to draw representation throughout Ontario, though the majority were still from Toronto:

St. Catharines:	T. R. Merritt and His Honour Judge W. S. Senkler;
Port Hope:	His Honour Judge T. M. Benson;
Hamilton:	His Honour Judge Muir and Adam Brown;
London:	V. Cronyn;
Sarnia:	R. S. Gurd;
Brockville:	His Honour Judge Macdonald;

Toronto: A. H. Campbell; the Hon. E. H. Blake, B.A., Q.C., M.P.; the Hon. S. H. Blake, Q.C.; S. Caldecott; Lt.-Col. R. G. Denison; B. Homer Dixon, K.L.N.; Robt. Gilmor; G. E. Gillespie, Q.C.; C. E. Hooper; Sir W. P. Howland, K.C.M.G., C.B.; N. W. Hoyles, B.A., LL.D., Q.C.; Fred J. Stewart and Sir Daniel Wilson, M.A., LL.D.

Mr. J. Herbert Mason, a Wycliffe founder, was in England, but he joined the Board of Bishop Ridley College within the year.

Sir Daniel Wilson and the Hon. Edward Blake shortly withdrew from the Board owing to their heavy commitments as president and chancellor of the University of Toronto, but "Sir Dan" at once joined the first Advisory Board of Bishop Ridley College, serving with other prominent Evangelical clerics and laymen, including The Little Doctor – the Reverend Principal Sheraton.

The Advisory Board was more than mere moral support; its members worked seriously to advance the secure establishment of the new boys' boarding school; located in several Canadian areas, they not only gave their personal prestige and influence, but were often successful recruiters of new boys. Other members of the Advisory Board were: the Reverend Principal Henderson, D.D., Mr. R. L. Gault and Mr. S. Carsley, Montreal; the Reverend Dyson Hague, M.A., Halifax; the Reverend Canon Curran, M.A., and the Reverend Rural-Dean Forneret, M.A., Hamilton; the Reverend Principal Miller, M.A. and the Reverend Canon Evans Davis, M.A., London; the Reverend Rural-Dean Kirkby, M.A., Collingwood; with the following from Toronto: the Rev. Mr. Septimus Jones, M.A., the Rev. Mr. T. C. Des Barres, M.A., the Rev. Mr. Arthur H. Baldwin, M.A., Sir Casimir Gzowski, K.C.M.G., A.D.C., the Reverend Principal J. P. Sheraton and Sir Daniel Wilson.

Each one of these clerics and laymen had been identified personally with the cause of the Evangelicals; some had signed the famous manifesto of 1874, angrily protesting the impeachment of Evangelical clergymen by Bishop Bethune, successor to Bishop John Strachan. All of them had been closely associated with Wycliffe College in some capacity, either during or since its establishment, or both. How close that association was should be noted by all Riddleians. For instance, the Hon. Sam Blake had been chairman of the College Council during Wycliffe's organizational phase; Sir Casimir Gzowski had been the first president of Wycliffe; A. H. Campbell, Col. George Denison and the Rev. Mr. Des Barres had been Wycliffe founders, and the latter had been treasurer of the Divinity School from which Wycliffe was developed; B. Homer Dixon and Stapleton Caldecott had both been treasurers of Wycliffe; the Reverend Dyson Hague had been the first Dean of Wycliffe; the Reverend W. J. Armitage had been the first president of the Wycliffe College Missionary Society; and Dr. Newman Wright Hoyles who had been the first secretary, was now president of Wycliffe, and would be for nearly thirty years. They now maintained the dual association because in their minds Wycliffe and Bishop

Ridley colleges comprised a single endeavour to which they could earnestly devote themselves.

The advantage to the new boys' boarding school was immense. A wealth of experience and wise counsel was available because the administrators on Ridley's early Boards of Directors, and the clerics, professors and laymen on her first Advisory Boards were both Wycliffe and Ridley men.

They were men whose names should be honoured by all Ridleians for all time. It is difficult at this distance to appreciate the full extent of the tribute and gratitude due to them by Ridley. Dedicated, sincere and selfless, with zeal and persistence their common quality, they also had the rare combination of confidence and vision. They looked into the future and saw a boys' school developing which was based on an ideal. They may have considered themselves practical, hard-headed builders, only concerned with their intense desire to establish the physical institution in which their religious beliefs and education could go hand in hand for their sons from their early teens, but this was an ideal, and their true target. It governed all their planning. At this moment they were investing the school they envisioned with such high principles that from the perspective of seventy years later they appear wholly idealistic. Yet their dream proved practical and their confidence justified. The steadfastness with which their ideal was cherished, guarded, passed on, and always honoured, saw it shining like a defiant banner all through the Ridley story, to rally the old virtues and values against the assaults of materialism.

Happily, many of these worthy men whose aspirations and vision transcended their own times to capture the future, lived long enough to see the ideal at work, at least in the beginning. In that future they should be remembered.

Perhaps October 4, 1888, was the date when the die was finally cast, and all knew there would be no turning back: St. Catharines and the Niagara Peninsula would be the home area of the new college. It was on that date that formal instructions were given to the solicitor to proceed with incorporation.

The decision to buy Springbank and to found Bishop Ridley College beside The Twelve, a St. Catharines creek, was never regretted. The founders' principal stipulation about a site had been that the college should not be in one of the growing industrial cities, but amid the peace and more tranquil life of one of Ontario's small cities or larger towns. They were determined to avoid the distraction and bustle of cities even though it meant sacrificing considerable income from the fees of day-students. Many of Ontario's small municipalities might have been satisfactory because most of such smaller population centres still retained a semi-rural or market-town atmosphere. Their industries were largely only those required to service the needs of the neighbourhood. In addition to the kind of surroundings where people lived in the simple, self-respecting Canadian way, the founders had wanted convenient road and rail communications, and St. Catharines could provide lake steamers in the

summer to Hamilton and Toronto in addition. The little city was a pleasant place, with gracious tree-lined streets, and with grape vines and tiny peach orchards in many backyards. The Niagara Peninsula was both historically and scenically one of the most attractive areas to be found anywhere in Ontario.

Ridley College has also never regretted the decision to concentrate on a boarding school for boys, and the attributes of school character which that entailed. It was one of the wisest of the founders' decisions, one which would be meticulously honoured. Day-boys would be held to a minimum.

By the time the work of creating a school from a former spa was well forward, all the directors had visited Springbank at least once and were well pleased. If the Reverend Mr. Armitage and Mr. Merritt had worked enthusiastically to have St. Catharines chosen as the site by the purchase of Springbank, the founders unanimously approved.

They soon found St. Catharines growing on them as more than just a pleasant place; they were content they had found the ideal college town. Through the years, St. Catharines would grow on each successive group of Ridley boys in the same satisfying way. The lovely little city which was to be the home of Ridley for all the years ahead, deserves to be introduced now. (Please also see Appendix A-a.)

ST. CATHARINES: ITS HISTORY

THE known historical background of St. Catharines and its countryside traces from the Indian wars in the lovely peninsula lying in the overlap of two of the large fresh-water seas. The fierce Iroquois defeated, then drove out the survivors of the unwarlike Hurons, and next annihilated the entire nation of decadent Neutrals, who had thrived as non-combatants during the earlier tribal fighting. Their country was largely to the east, along the great river and in what is now New York State. Nothing remains anywhere today of the Neutrals but the remembered name of the village which was at the mouth of the river, on the site of Niagara-on-the-Lake. It is perpetuated in our name for the river, its magnificent falls, and much of the district. It was *Onghiara*. With the Iroquois interested only in war and not in holding conquered country, the Mississaugas, who were Chippewas, then moved in.

War also marked the next phase of St. Catharines and Niagara history, the prolonged struggle between the British and French for possession of the New World. It was also through war that the first settlers came to the Garden of Canada. They were United Empire Loyalists, who believed in settling differences with the Home Government by negotiation, not war. They took to the wilderness trails to reach British terrain rather than join the revolt against the

mother country, or even to appear to condone the American Revolutionary War. Land was bought by Upper Canada for the first Loyalists to arrive, and further grants of land were made as they continued to seek life under the Union Jack for a considerable time after the peace treaty of 1783.

Two staunch Loyalists from New York State, John Hainer and Jacob Dittrick, were the first permanent settlers at the site of today's St. Catharines. They took up land on the banks of Twelve Mile Creek, so-called because it was twelve miles from the mouth of the Niagara River. (Grimsby is at the mouth of Forty Mile Creek.) The only standing building at the mouth of the Twelve was a warehouse, owned by the Hon. Robt. Hamilton, who brought supplies for the scattered settlers along the stream by boat from Queenston (then called The Landing). Mr. Hamilton originally owned most of the land on which St. Catharines is built. Dittrick settled on the east bank of the Twelve, and Hainer to the west, on Hainer's Hill, or Western Hill.

The historical land-link between Ridley College and the first settlers on Twelve Mile Creek is very close. The present Ridley College is sited on Hainer's Western Hill.

A little community called The Twelve was slowly formed, as it was a cross-roads of well-travelled trails. Its first inn was built in 1797 by Paul Shipman, and the name Shipman's Corners was the next christening. (Incongruously, it was Paul, the tavern keeper, who gave his name to St. Paul Street.) The name St. Catharines appears on a church document dated 1796. It was bestowed in honour of Catharine, wife of the Hon. Robt. Hamilton, but The Twelve and Shipman's Corners were also in use as late as 1829; it was the next year that St. Catharines became the official name as the first Welland Canal was completed, to launch an era of new growth and prosperity for the entire peninsula.

Through the Merritt family, the College is also linked historically both to the canal and to the rapid growth of the first settlement which took place after this Loyalist family arrived from New York State. They soon dammed the creek, built the first grist-mill and saw-mill, and by 1816 had also opened a general store, a distillery, a potashery, a cooperage and a blacksmith shop. William Hamilton Merritt, who was only three years of age when he came to live at The Twelve, grew to manhood with a dedicated sense of purpose. He carried his family's urge for development over the entire peninsula, building a national monument to himself, which still has great economic value: through his great vision and tireless persistence, he built the first Welland Canal (1829). (*Postscript:* The second canal, a diversion of the first, was completed about 1833; the third was built between 1871 and 1877; the present Welland Canal is the fourth, built between 1913 and 1932. Because of its recent deepening, today's Welland Canal is more accurately the fifth canal.)

The first canal followed the valley of the Twelve from the neighbourhood

of Port Dalhousie to beyond Merritton, where it climbed the escarpment on an angle with the aid of many locks. It joined the Welland River at Port Robinson. and had Chippawa, above the Falls, as its Western terminus.

The Hon. William Hamilton Merritt was one of the very great Canadians of his time, and the leading force in the early development of the Niagara Peninsula. His youngest son was T. R. Merritt, first president of Bishop Ridley College, who had been elected a vice-president of the Imperial Bank of Canada at its first meeting of shareholders in 1875, when his father's bank, the Niagara District Bank, was amalgamated. (Mr. T. R. Merritt was president of the Imperial Bank from 1902 to 1906.)

After the American Civil War, a considerable number of southerners came to St. Catharines and, before and during it, the quiet little town had been on the underground slave route through which many negroes escaped to settle in southwestern Ontario.

St. Catharines had also been a shipping and ship-building centre of consequence, with busy docks and a shipyard. It was even a seaport. The evidence to recall this could still be seen as late as 1908 at the bottom of the canal bank below the present site of the Lower School – the ribs of a sunken schooner. An enterprising pioneer named Shickluna had built small two-masted schooners at the mouth of The Twelve to carry potash from St. Catharines to England. The return cargo was often English brick; it was used in building many early homes in the Niagara Peninsula. At least one St. Catharines' house built of the English brick still stands; it is on Yates Street.

In 1888, when Mr. T. R. Merritt was a chief negotiator in the purchase of Springbank Sanatorium, St. Catharines considered itself a city; unofficially it was because its population had passed by 361 people the 10,000-mark required for incorporation. It was a well-to-do, combined shipping and market town, with some industry, busy with the activities of its quiet, self-respecting people. They were typical of the solid citizens whose presence at that time in so many Ontario rural towns and small cities enriched the province by forming much of its political and social backbone. In the fertile southwestern Ontario fruitbelt (whose peaches were a commercial commodity even in 1815) the sheltered position of St. Catharines between the two great lakes gave it a long summer, and a notable human longevity. St. Catharines was so healthy an early census revealed it to have the lowest death-rate of any Canadian city.

It was only twelve bird-line miles from one of the world's scenic wonders, the mighty Niagara Falls, and closer still was another interesting showplace, which the descendants of the Loyalists greatly admired. This was Brock's Monument, a tall shaft overlooking the United States from the heights above the deep Niagara Gorge, which had been erected to commemorate the Canadian victory on Queenston Heights in the War of 1812. The monument

to General Brock was to be the scene of many excursions by Ridley boys in future years on the anniversary of the battle.

In addition to its two railroads (Grand Trunk and Niagara Central), St. Catharines had excellent summer boat service to Toronto and Montreal. In the summer-holiday period of 1888 three boats were plying daily between the city and Toronto.

Its Grand Trunk station would be an important landmark to Ridley's students; to reach it, they would go down the hill at the foot of St. Paul Street to the old swing bridge over the canal, then up a steep hill past Rodman Hall and Christ Church. (There was no high-level bridge over the canal; it was not built until the period of the 1914-18 war.) Oak Hill was the original family home of the Merritts, and then came their Rodman Hall. Rodman Brown, nephew of Mrs. T. R. Merritt, wife of the first president of Ridley, was an original Ridleian of '89. Dr. William Hamilton Merritt, C.M., R.C.P.S. (Edin.), was the first doctor of Ridley College; he was the grandson of his famous namesake, and his son, another T. R., was a student at Ridley from 1903 to 1914, and so in turn was his son, T. R. III, from 1934 to 1944.

When the School opened in the autumn of '89, the boys were introduced to St. Catharines' great claim to civic fame – the first electric streetcars operated regularly in North America. Horse-cars still carried passengers to the outskirts, but an electric trolley line, with the sides of the cars open, was running downtown from power supplied by an overhead wire. They liked the quiet little city at first sight and understood the admiration of the rustic bard, James McIntyre – “cheese poet of Ingersoll” – who had been a furniture dealer in St. Catharines about this time. It was then he lauded in verse the town “so famed for its mineral waters . . . and the beauty of her daughters”. His jingle went on –

*“St. Catharines your greatness you inherit
From the genius of a Merritt,
You still would be a village dreary
But for this canal from Lake Erie.*

*Among your many great rewards
It gives you dry docks and ship yards.”*

In 1888-9 St. Catharines' shipyards and dry docks were still busy; its shipping industry would not be moved to Port Dalhousie and elsewhere for several years. The city's mineral springs which had made St. Catharines famous in the United States and Canada as a watering place were also still an important, if diminishing phase of the town's life. Its fashionable health resorts were in financial trouble, and the town would soon no longer be St.

Catharines, the Spa. Its wealthy American patients, coming "to take the waters", were going to Saratoga or Karlsbad.

SPRINGBANK

ONE OF THE first of St. Catharines' spas to fall victim to the decline had been Springbank Sanatorium, the largest and most pretentious of all. The original owner, Dr. Theophilus Mack, had died. He had been a well-known and respected medico. As the Reverend Mr. Armitage and Mr. Merritt had hoped, the property was obtained at a bargain for conversion into Bishop Ridley College, because the new owner, the daughter of Bishop Dehon of Massachusetts, had fallen heir to the defunct resort through a mortgage. Feeling that she had received great benefits from Dr. Mack's mineral waters, she had advanced him a large loan in gratitude, as the resort began to flounder financially. Her price of \$15,000 was so reasonable it is obvious she now had no interest of any kind in Springbank.

In a small Canadian town or city in 1888, a property as large and imposing as the first permanent home of Ridley College was invariably in the category of a showplace. It consisted of a single, large, solidly built red-brick building, with some ornate Victorian features, but also with Victorian spaciousness in both its interior and surrounding grounds. It was constructed with a three- and four-storey main front section, with a long wing running back to the east – the original "main" and "wing" of Ridley's rousing football song of the future.

Its lawns had been neglected during the summer of 1888, but would quickly respond to care, and the property was profusely treed.

It faced Yates Street, which will confuse visitors to the College today. The home of the present Ridley is far across the canal from the site of Springbank, and is on what was then still called the Western Hill, the farmstead of Pioneer Hainer, with the original farm buildings still on it. (To locate the front door of Bishop Ridley College of 1889, knock at the door of the Yates Street home of Mr. A. W. Taylor, one of the original Ridleians. You are right there. Mr. Taylor's front door is sited almost on the exact location of Ridley's first front door. To the left of the Taylor home is part of the old Ridley gymnasium, which had been the Sanatorium's laundry, the only section of Springbank which still exists.)

MANY suggestions had been thrashed out in discussion on the most effective way to attract pupils. Each founder was convinced the proposed school was seriously needed, but more than one earnest planner blenched a little on remembering the natural hesitancy of parents to send their boys to a new,

untried institution. Somehow, people not only had to be informed, but confidence must be created. There is no record of suggestions on an elaborate promotion such as a modern advertising campaign, but great faith was placed in a proposed new document; some time before, a tribute had been paid to the Reverend Mr. Miller's writing skill when he had been unanimously nominated to draft the first prospectus of Ridley College.

It is unfortunate that the miracle of radio was not at hand in 1888, or that all prospective parents could not have been congregated in a single Anglican church to hear the Reverend Mr. Miller express his personal philosophy of education; it would have been far more effective than the formal words of a prospectus. His eloquent sincerity in offering his personal concept of the special role of a boys' church-school was always convincing. He explained it partly in this way a year or so later:

"In the education of the young, who are afterwards to bear a part in giving a character to the society in which they must live and labour, it is of supreme importance to inculcate right principles, the love of truth, the love of honour, the spirit of kindness and mutual helpfulness, the desire to see the will of God prevail. Without these things, mere academic training, the development of mental powers, and the acquisition of wide and accurate scholarship, are inadequate to fit anyone for the duties of citizenship, and the practice, in the individual life, of high and noble conduct.

"Especially is this true of boys who possess clear intelligence, and great natural capacity. For them the temptations in after life are infinitely greater than for those of lesser mental gifts. Well might a parent tremble for the future of a son endowed with mental gifts above his fellows, but who had never learnt the great primary lesson of life: – *Better is he that ruleth his own soul than he that taketh a city.*"

We do not think anything said in the prospectus was more wonderfully assuring than these words that religion and education would walk quietly hand in hand in the new boys' residential college, yet a remarkable document resulted. A committee was assigned to assist him, but it was strictly a Miller production. The prospectus was primarily directed at a readership of parents, of course; it explained the whole concept of the special educational role of a boys' boarding school. We suspect it was as useful in the fund-raising campaign which shortly was vigorously in progress as it was later in attracting the first students.

Viewed against the terse sales style of a modern promotional document, Ridley's first prospectus may appear guilty of Victorian wordiness, but critics should know that its prose was highly complimented for its lucidity in 1888. Further, it held touches of showmanship, idealism and obvious sincerity, a difficult combination to achieve. Besides, the prospectus (below) was effective; it did much to attract the first 48 pupils for the opening school year 1889-90.

PROSPECTUS, BISHOP RIDLEY COLLEGE, 1888

The growth of educational institutions in the Dominion of Canada, and especially in the Province of Ontario, has kept pace with its material progress and with the development of Canadian national life. In Ontario, the vast importance of the education of the people has been steadily in view by our legislators ever since Confederation, and the greatest care has always been bestowed upon it. From the smallest beginnings our school system has grown to be the most important factor in our progress as a people. Our theories of education are the best in the world, and in the practical application of them we are behind no other country. On its intellectual side the Canadian system of public school education is unsurpassed.

However good such a national system may be, it is necessarily limited in certain respects, and cannot provide for all the exigencies of modern civilization. The great majority of those immersed in professions, in business, and in social life, find it impossible to give that time to the systematic religious training of their children which they feel is necessary. Apart from that difficulty, children who have not the constant supervision of their parents, acquire too much facility of individual movement, and chafe under restraint because of the lack of a wise discipline. If parents could themselves supply this deficiency by the definite and continuous instruction of their children there would be no difficulty; but in these days of immense and ceaseless activity, many parents find this impossible, and the question of the education of their children is thus a serious problem. The only solution lies in placing their children where they will receive all the advantages of the best home training. Of boys this is especially true, and hence the desire of parents to send them away to school where they will receive the best education possible, religious, intellectual and physical.

The only true education is that which develops the threefold nature of the child, symmetrically. First, the moral nature must be so trained and nurtured that it may develop according to the perfect design of the Creator, and that the child may at length become a Christian gentleman. Secondly, the intellectual nature must be trained and strengthened by continuous and judicious exercise so that the child may gradually grow into the condition of a mental athlete. Thirdly, the physical nature must be so cared for and developed, according to its strength and nervous energy, that the bodily temple may fit the spiritual organism that dwells therein.

In a school where this idea of education obtains, there must be a distinctive religious teaching. The life of Christ is to be the pattern upon which the true teacher must fashion character, and the Christian life must animate both teacher and pupils. There must be a religious atmosphere, not merely a moral environment. Further, the pressure of religious influence must come first and before everything else. The Christian character is the highest type of character; the true Christian is the true gentleman.

It has been decided to undertake the important work of establishing a Church College for boys, bearing the name at the head of this prospectus (Bishop Ridley College), in which the religious training will be based upon sound Protestant Church of England principles. Of the necessity for such a school there cannot be any doubt. The schools now in existence are filled to overflowing, and are obliged to decline many applications. Bishop Ridley

College is being established because of the urgent necessity for another good boys' college.

It is proposed to open the College in September next, 1889. The Principal and as many of the masters as possible will be clergymen of the Church of England in Canada. The departmental masters will be the very best men obtainable; they will be honour graduates of their respective Universities. The College will commence operations with a full staff of the most competent teachers. Ample accommodation will be afforded 150 or 200 boys.

The best features of the best English schools will be adopted so far as conformable to the conditions of Canadian life.

The aim of the school will be:

1. To develop Christian character, and to fit the pupils to become Christian gentlemen.
2. To give the very best school education to be obtained in Canada. All the branches will be taught. Boys will be prepared for matriculation at any Canadian university with honours in all departments, for entrance into all the learned professions and for entrance into the Royal Military College. Those who intend going into business will receive a thorough commercial training. Music, drawing and painting will be taught by specialists.
3. A specialty will be made of physical culture. Every master will take an active interest in all games, so that there will be a constant supervision of play as well as work. Every boy will receive such physical training as his health will allow. It will be the aim of the authorities to develop in every boy a sound physique.
4. The utmost care will be taken to perfect the internal economy of the College, making it a pattern of family life. Refectory and dormitory arrangements will be as perfect as it is possible to make them. The cubicle system, now adopted by the best English Schools will be introduced, so that each boy will practically have a bedroom to himself, and his personal effects will receive especial care.

Further information may be obtained from the secretary, F. J. Stewart, Esq., 28 King St. East, Toronto.

The prospectus was approved, edited and handed to the printer before the end of 1888.

The last official act of the founding group in '88 was in December, when a resolution was unanimously passed to apply for the new school's charter in the name of

Bishop Ridley College

The suggestion for the name was made by the Reverend Mr. Armitage, but this was only a formality. The founders understood that this would be the title of the new school from the outset. No other name was proposed at the last moment. The Reverend Mr. Armitage recalled, and wrote their reasons in 1927: "In looking back to a time, now nearly forty years distant, I cannot but

feel that it was an inspiration of God. No other name was ever as much as suggested, and the Board accepted it with unanimous voice.

“Bishop Ridley! What name could possibly be more appropriate for a college?”

“What sacred memories it calls up! The great scholar of the English Reformation, the great truth-seeker and truth-lover, and martyr for the truth.”

The Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario granted incorporation of Bishop Ridley College early in March, 1889.

The word Bishop was later dropped, but Ridley College still stands with pride in honour of Ridley, the Martyr.

Preparation

"The Governors had discovered that when the Principal wanted something he considered an obligation, he had a tenacity it was easier to appease than oppose."

THE final creation of a church school in which was embedded the religious faith of many dedicated men, but which had no more than their vision from which to begin, was a satisfying experience. The young Rev. J. O. Miller, who was Principal-elect of no more than a paper school at the calendar's turn into 1889, was to know this reward; he would see all that he had personally done so much to build come suddenly alive and begin to function. But a bizarre (for a cleric and scholar) nine months intervened before he could even choose his teaching staff which, in the end, proved to be very close to his ideal in scholastic brilliance and personal character. He discovered he must play an astonishing assortment of roles, none of them even remotely related to either school-mastering or religion, before he could establish his educational and regulatory policies, or plan his classes, their subjects and timetables.

He alone of the founding group was both on a salary and free of other responsibilities, so almost everything fell to him. He could depend on the willing help of the others, but this was necessarily in the form of counsel and moral support. The job – virtually all jobs – were his. A lesser man, or one with a lesser sense of dedication, could have been appalled at the prospect. Throughout the winter he was to be a tireless and persistent fund-raiser. During the following spring and summer he was variously an interior decorator; a plasterer's assistant; a watch-dog of expenses; a persuasive salesman of the boarding-school method of education for boys; a walking-boss of carpenters; an overseer of landscaping; a first-aid man; an advocate of community goodwill; and an expert on drains. He often played several of such roles at once.

It was fortunate that he was young, and not only had great capacity for hard work, but hugely enjoyed it.

When he could spare the time, he was also suitor for the hand of a beautiful girl, the daughter of a distinguished financier, Mr. William Alexander, who had moved with his wife and eight children to Santa Barbara, Cal., in 1883. So it was fortunate that the newly appointed headmaster of a boys' school at a very modest stipend, was also courageous and determined.

In retrospect, the remarkable feature of the appointment of the first headmaster of Bishop Ridley College was that the founders had the insight to see or sense the gifts and qualities and great versatility which their choice possessed. There was so little as yet to reveal these things that we must assume it was his force of character and inspirational personality which gave them confidence. His ultimate success as a fund-raiser could not be foreseen, and can be attributed to a fierce determination to get the new school launched. His ability to turn his hand to the many jobs entailed in building renovation, might suggest that the adaptability of the Canadian pioneer, who had split fence rails and done many things with his hands, was close to the surface of the scholar and cleric, but the founders knew he was not a pioneer. He had come to Canada from England after passing his Oxford-Cambridge entrance examinations at 15. If he was a skilful natural carpenter, he had certainly never before been a plumber's helper. His steadfast integrity and his ability to set a target and reach it despite frustration and formidable barriers were discernible traits, however, in his struggle to complete his education. His father, an Anglican clergyman of Liverpool, had been appointed to a Canadian church, but immediately after arriving in Toronto was incapacitated in an accident. This forced his son to go to work at once, though he refused to relinquish his dream of higher education. He was in a law office for a time, wholeheartedly hating it, and then he taught for two years in a country school near Whitby. The rigid self-denial he imposed on himself is revealed by the \$100 he saved to enter university. He had then, literally, worked himself through arts and theology at Varsity and Wycliffe. He had edited the *Varsity*, and the University of Toronto Year Book. Among his closest friends had been George Wrong and Ned Blake.

When appointed headmaster, he was such a recent graduate he had only a brief spell in practical life, and that as an associate editor of the *Evangelical Churchman*. His country-school experience hardly gave assurance that he would teach brilliantly, and certainly nothing said that he would inspire students year after year with his integrity and unquenchable spirit, and would pass on his religious principles with a rare eloquence which would carry long-remembered messages to boys of all ages. It proved he had this great gift. The founders must have sensed it, and all the others he possessed.

He was captured by Springbank at first sight. Before his appointment, he had crossed the lake by the little steamer which then always docked at the Norris Flour Mill on the old Welland Canal, to have a look at the future

scene of many years of his life. The Reverend Mr. Armitage had proudly shown him through the building, and he was only enthralled with the vision of the inspiring creation yet to be.

On his second visit, he looked at Springbank with more practical eyes. His common sense told him that an enormous amount of work had to be done. After all, Springbank had been designed and built as a health resort for wealthy patients, and though the Reverend Mr. Armitage dismissed with an airy wave of his hand the task of converting such things as an elegant drawing room to a prayer hall, and spacious suites and bedrooms to boys' cubicles and dormitories, classrooms, washrooms and masters' studies, the man who would oversee the operation had his first real impression of what lay ahead. He was not appalled; he was only challenged. He threw himself into phase after phase of it with the tireless energy and abiding devotion of a man who was watching a dream take shape under his eyes and hands.

By the time he was hurrying the last things in the race with a swiftly approaching Opening Day (September 16, 1889), Ridley had worked deep into his heart. The School was then to be an inseparable part of him for thirty long, wonderful years.

A great deal of money had to be found beyond the cash required to seal the purchase of the property, and it was up to the Headmaster. All helped as they could. The Reverend Mr. Armitage was his principal aid, but he was the one elected to do the leg-work, and to travel to many Ontario cities in quest of funds. He personally canvassed all the original subscribers to pay for their stock. Mr. Gillespie contributed a valuable document from his safe: the list of subscribers for the purchase of Pickering College in 1884, the plan which had collapsed. All were prospects. Before his campaign was fully launched, the fund-raiser wrote to President T. R. Merritt:

"We have now got \$9800 subscribed. I am going over to St. Catharines on Monday or Tuesday on Mr. Blake's advice. He thinks before canvassing in earnest here, we ought to be able to show what the St. Catharines people are willing to do. I hope we may get a good many thousand dollars when up there.

"Could you manage to help us personally with such names as Neelon, Rykert, Judge Senkler, etc.? We would only trouble you with three or four. . . .

"What St. Catharines may do will greatly affect what is done here and in Ottawa, Montreal and London where I shall go afterwards. . . ."

The total ultimately collected may not seem large in terms of a modern building fund's objective, but the \$49,000 in cash which was obtained by late spring (May) was a notable accomplishment for 1889. It was achieved largely by personal bell-ringing. Almost every leading Anglican in Ontario who was not opposed to the Evangelical view on theology, and who could in any sense

be called "a steward of wealth", found the persuasive and persistent young Headmaster in his office or on his doorstep at some time during that winter and spring.

As early as January, it was sensed that the first estimates for repairs, furnishings and equipment were too low, as guesses on costs for such new projects so often are. The wholesale price of knives, forks, sheets, blankets, washroom fittings and practically everything they must have, was going up. The *Toronto Evening Telegram* (now eleven years old) had commented editorially in 1888 that the cost of serviceable furniture had risen "outrageously" since the year before. Economy had to be the watchword.

This was emphasized when the Headmaster accompanied Mr. Dick, a Toronto architect, to St. Catharines, to estimate the reconstruction required. When the architect reported on essential alterations and repairs, they saw they must indeed be frugal in their spending; he confirmed the growing suspicion that converting a health sanatorium to a boys' school would be far more expensive than they had at first optimistically supposed. It would cost about \$10,000. The Dick Report was presented on January 31, when still another administration meeting was held, again in the office of A. H. Campbell in Manning Arcade. The last details in the purchase of Springbank were tidied up.

In February, what might be fairly termed the first Financial Statement of Bishop Ridley College Corporation was presented to the shareholders.

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES TO DECEMBER, 1888

Cost of building and adjoining ground	\$17,960.45
Improvements and additions	10,900.85
Preliminary expenses, legal fees, etc.	2,250.81
Furniture and bedding	3,023.27
Library	218.47
	<hr/>
TOTAL:	<u>\$34,353.85</u>

Note: To meet this expenditure, the College had \$10,000 of paid-up stock of the total of \$49,000 subscribed, and \$24,353.85 in mortgages and a bank loan.

That the actual work of renovation could not be started until late spring was considered sheer waste of valuable time by the impatient Headmaster, but there was some compensation later; in March, when W. B. Allen of St. Catharines was appointed Ridley's architect and asked to proceed, there was no drain on their cash reserve: he agreed to accept stock for his fee.

Their watch on costs also caused the Board to remember to write the Water Commissioner of St. Catharines, to enquire if they could have the school supplied with water at a "nominal rate". This was assured. They had also written a Major Evans at Montreal about the rumoured prevalency of

malaria at St. Catharines, and were now relieved to learn the malaria scare was unfounded.

It was again economy, rather than a flair for showmanship, which saw the Reverend Mr. Miller writing his Ridley business letters with a fine hand on rather flamboyant stationery. He had wanted something to illustrate the new school but would not spend the money for specially designed institutional letterhead, so when he found a steel engraving, which had been a promotional illustration for Springbank in its health-resort heyday, he adopted it. The engraving showed flags flying, a fountain playing, and crowds of sedate, fashionably dressed people on wide (imaginary) curving walks leading down from Springbank to the waterside, where a small steamer and a sailing craft were wafting by. Bright blue ink was used even for the title: *Bishop Ridley College of Ontario, St. Catharines*. He used it for general correspondence, and no doubt it helped raise some of that \$49,000.

It was the first official Ridley letterhead.

The Reverend Mr. Miller was already thinking far beyond college stationery. He was also engrossed in devising a classical school motto, in choosing school colours and in designing school insignia – the things which would impress and be symbolic of the dignity, character and distinguished attributes of the new institution of learning. He was already well forward with the design of a full-scale Ridley coat-of-arms, actually a crest, which would be proudly worn on the cricket blazers and school caps of all Riddleians. It would also add distinction to college documents, including letterhead, and many other things which were Ridley's.

In the shape of a shield, the crest he designed was topped in the centre by a symbolic Canadian beaver, and below, but separated from the shield itself, was a riband bearing the Greek motto he had chosen:

ΠΗΓΗ ΖΩΗΣ ΕΝΝΟΙΑ ΤΟΙΣ ΚΕΚ ΤΗΜΕΝΟΙΣ

It was the personal motto of Thomas Carlisle, great scholar and philosopher. The Reverend Mr. Miller explained that the motto was the Greek rendering of *Proverbs* 16:22.

*Understanding is a well-spring
of life unto him that hath it.*

This Ridley motto was replaced by the present one in Latin at the turn of the century, because the Headmaster felt that *May I Be Consumed in Service* was more descriptive of the principles and ideals of Ridley and her boys, but some scholars always favoured the original Grecian motto. Years later, when the Hon. and Reverend Dr. Cody was Chancellor of the University of Toronto, he referred to it frequently in reminiscent speeches of these early Ridley

years. The meaning was exactly retained, but his informal translation in 1930 was –

*Understanding is a well-spring
of life to those who possess it.*

Still other translations were offered by Ridleians who were Greek scholars, which changed the Reverend Mr. Miller's version more noticeably –

*Purpose in life is a well-spring
for those who have it.*

and

*The art of thinking is the secret of
life to those who have acquired it.*

Whether or not the Reverend Mr. Miller intended to design a formal, authentic coat-of-arms or merely a crest for school use, is not known. It may be significant that he did not submit his design to the College of Heralds for approval, though he must have known this was essential if he really wished to develop a properly authorized coat-of-arms.

His original symbolic design of 1888 may be seen at the College; it hangs in the library. It is also reproduced in stone over the front door, and has been in common use for many years on Ridley documents. These reproductions only differ from the original in their lack of the colours he used and the replacement of the Greek motto. The new Latin motto was chosen in 1900:

Terar Dum Proxim

The generally accepted free translation was: *May I Be Consumed in Service.*

The original crest with its colours is in the shape of a shield, which is quartered. At the lower right are three maple leaves on a green background to join the beaver in identifying the College as Canadian. (There are those who believe the leaves were of the oak, a tree common to the Niagara Peninsula, but to depict maple leaves was clearly the designer's purpose.) At the lower left are three lions rampant, on a red background, to indicate Canada's British connection. At upper left is the family crest of Bishop Ridley, three white birds, standing erect, and a triangular bar in reverse, bearing three circles. The background is red. At upper right are three gold mitres, representing Bishops Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley, on a background of ecclesiastical purple.

The doubts which have been expressed that some of these symbolic applications would not be approved by the College of Heralds in all details are probably well founded, but Ridley has made the crest her own by tradition and years of use, so an objection on such grounds is not in order. Technical perfection has not been claimed. There has never been any pretense about

its formal authenticity. However, if the design had collided with some ancient exclusive privilege for a symbol's use the objection would have been registered years ago; students of heraldry are quick to criticize. In any event an authentic, officially approved coat-of-arms was probably never the intention and, at this late date, the importance of this is difficult to see. It matters much more that Ridley's crest has become firmly established by custom and long traditional use. It has distinguished Ridley's documents ever since 1891, and is seen in stone or bronze before the homes of Old Ridleians. To Ridley, this long acceptance can be considered more important than a minor technical detail of heraldry.

When the Reverend Mr. Miller presented his crest to the Board of Directors, these gentlemen were introduced to the school colours for the first time. They were not in the shield itself, but the bar on which the beaver crouched was orange and black. The shield's background colours – two quarters of red, one of green and one of purple – were part of the symbolization, but an explanation was requested of the orange and black bar.

"They are the colours of Bishop Ridley College – orange and black," said the young Headmaster.

It is not likely that the Board members were told (and it is quite possible that many a Ridleian still does not know) that the inspiration for the choice of these striking school colours which have become such an integral part of Ridley was romantic sentiment. The Reverend Mr. Miller was now betrothed to Miss Katharine Alexander of Toronto and Santa Barbara, and he was in love with the great depth and completeness which was his nature. He had first seen her while she and her partner were winning the Toronto tennis doubles championship, and the next night he had contrived to meet her at a tennis ball. She was wearing an orange gown, covered with black net. Not being afraid of sentiment, as most young men are, he chose orange and black as the school colours of Ridley.

The Reverend Mr. Miller was also ready with Ridley's Grace, which would be said at meals; it is remembered from the first dinners in the College in the winter of 1889. It was simple –

*For the food which we are about to receive, may God
make us thankful, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.*

The Latin grace, which was shortly a traditional Ridleian custom, was not at first in use. The Headmaster and Mr. W. A. Kirkwood, B.A., who joined the staff as a classics master in 1898, agreed on a Latin version, and then introduced the grace which is now so familiar –

*Pro cibis quos accepturi sumus
Deus nos gratos faciat
per Jesum Christum Dominum Nostrum.*

Founders of Bishop Ridley College

First President



T. R. MERRITT, ESQ.
First President of
Bishop Ridley College
(1889-99); elected by the first
permanent Board.

First Headmaster



THE REV. J. O. MILLER,
M.A., D.C.L.
First Headmaster (1889-1921);
present at the Founding Meeting
and chosen unanimously.

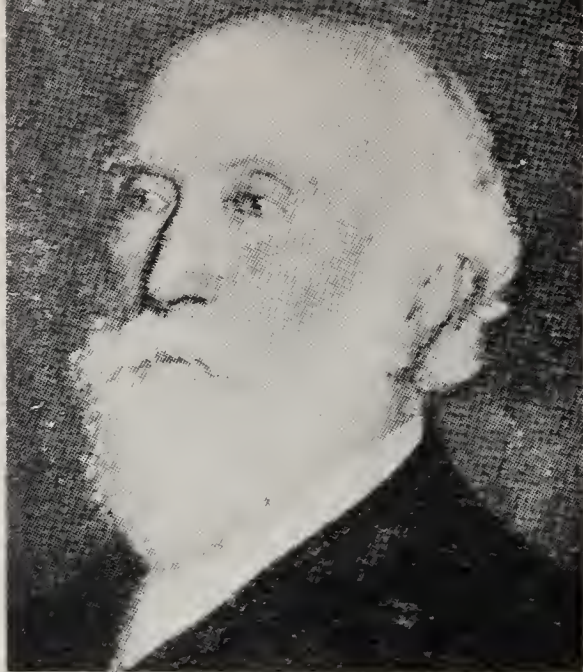
Principal of Wycliffe



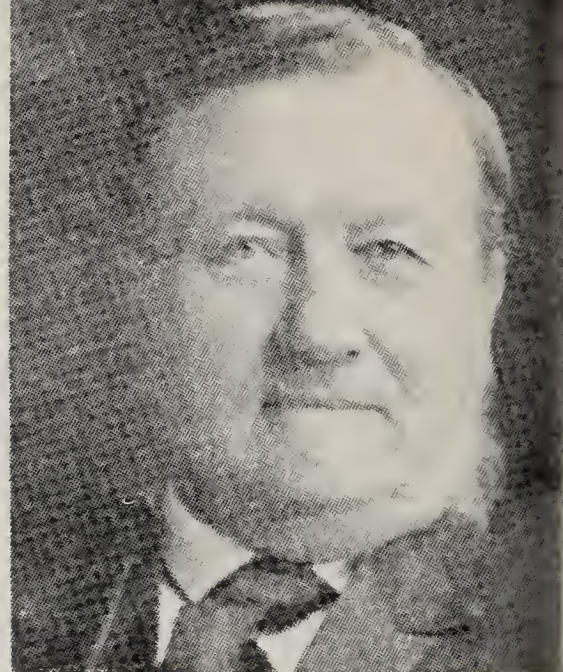
THE REV. J. P. SHERATON,
D.D., LL.D.,
Principal of Wycliffe College,
1877-1906, who called the
Founding Meeting, Sept. 27,
1888.



N. W. HOYLES, B.A., LL.D., Q.C.
President of Wycliffe (23 years);
President of Ridley 1899;
Director 1889-1927.



A. H. CAMPBELL, ESQ.
A Founder, Treasurer of
Wycliffe; First Vice-Pres.
of Ridley.

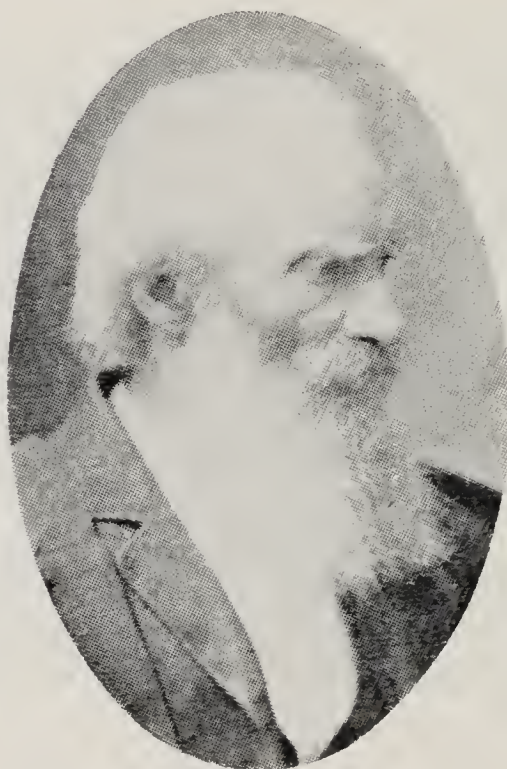


HON. S. H. BLAKE, B.A., Q.C.
A Founder of Wycliffe; Ridley
Director 1889-1914

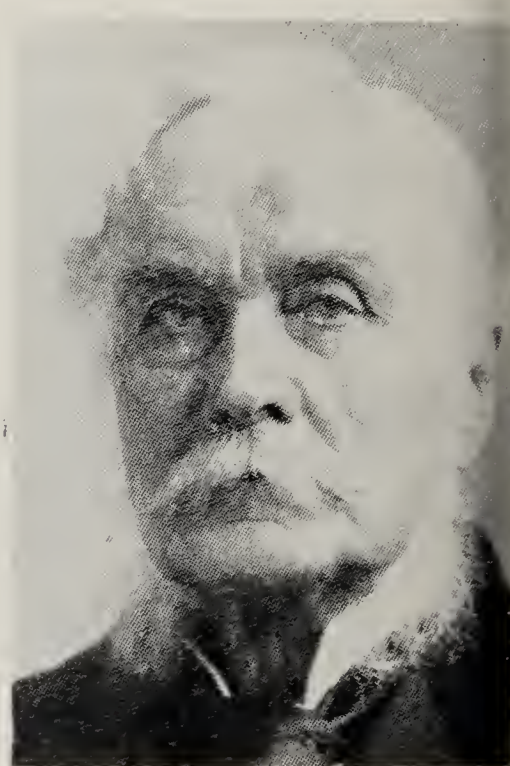
Other Founders of Ridley



J. HERBERT MASON, ESQ.
A Founder of Wycliffe;
President of Ridley 1900-11;
Director from 1889.



SIR DANIEL WILSON,
M.A., LL.D.
Pres. University of Toronto.
Presided at Founding Meeting.

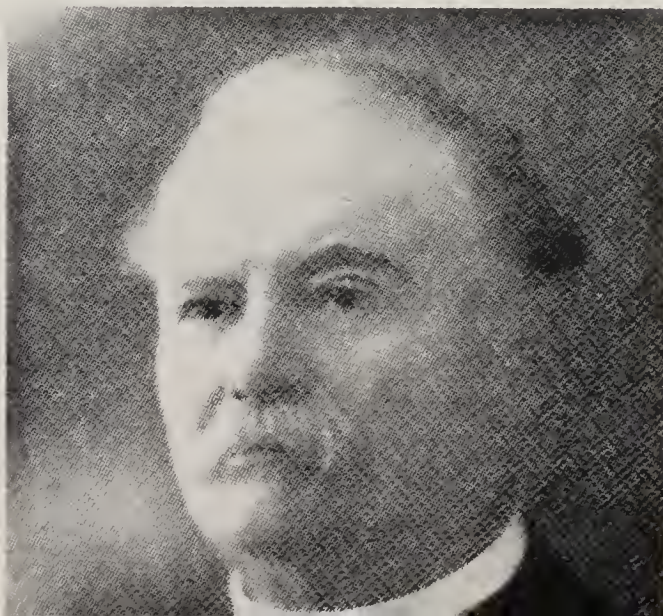
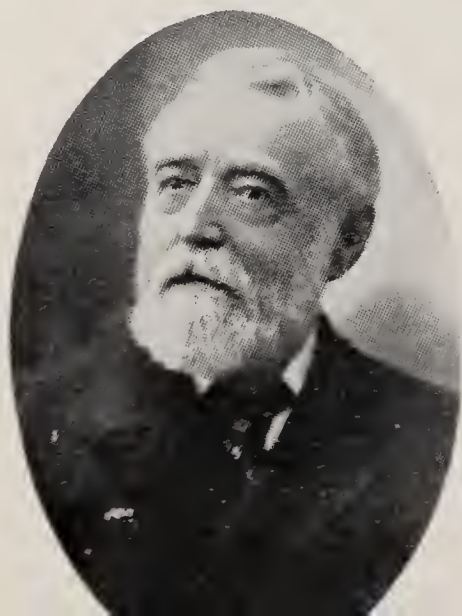


COL. SIR CASIMIR GZOWSKI
K.C.M.G., A.D.C.
First President of Wycliffe;
a Founder of Ridley.

STAPLETON CALDECOTT,
ESQ.
A Founder of Wycliffe;
Director of Ridley 1889-1907.

THE REV. ARCHDEACON
W. J. ARMITAGE, D.D., Ph.D.
A Founder, Staff 1889-99;
Director 1891-9.

B. HOMER DIXON, K.M.L.
Treas. of Wycliffe; Director
of Ridley 1889-97.



The adaptation of the old song, which began, *Come, fill your glasses up . . .* became *The School Song* by degrees, but it has been assumed that the Headmaster had it ready with so many other things, and that he suggested it as Ridley's special refrain. Please see Appendix A-a (Ridley's Songs).

It was 1900 before it was officially named as Ridley's special song.

It should be noted that the words and refrain which became Ridley's School song are almost identical with the Williams College song, and Williams is older. The words of both songs are alike and they are set to the same refrain, Sousa's *Corcoran Cadets*. Borrowed from Williams College or not, Ridley loves it –

THE SCHOOL SONG

*Come, fill your glasses up
To Ridley, to Ridley, to Ridley!
Come, fill a loving cup
To Ridley, to Ridley, to Ridley!
Here's to the place we love;
May we ever loyal prove;
Come, fill your glasses up
To Ridley, to Ridley, to Ridley!*

*Sing, boys, with might and main
To Ridley, to Ridley, to Ridley!
Three times three, and once again,
To Ridley, to Ridley, to Ridley!
Here's to battles fought and won;
Here's to heroes who have gone;
Here's to every worthy son
of Ridley, of Ridley, of Ridley.*

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1889

ON MAY 16, 1889, the members of Ridley's first Board of Directors were recorded. At a meeting in Toronto they were elected by ballot. The officers, named earlier, were confirmed in their appointments. If some men were named who had not been listed as provisional directors they had been earnest supporters. The following comprised the first permanent Ridley Board –

OFFICERS: President, T. R. Merritt; Vice-President, A. H. Campbell; Secretary, F. J. Stewart.

DIRECTORS: Hon. S. H. Blake, Q.C., S. Caldecott, A. H. Campbell, B. Homer Dixon, K.N.L., Geo. E. Gillespie, Q.C., Robt. Gilmor, Chas. E. Hooper, N. W. Hoyles, Q.C., Robt. Jenkins, J. Herbert Mason, Chas. Moss, Q.C., Sir W. P. Howland, C.B., K.C.M.G., and Fred J. Stewart, all of Toronto; His Honour Judge Muir, Hamilton; T. R. Merritt and His Honour Judge William S. Senkler, St. Catharines; His Honour Judge Macdonald, Brockville; His Honour Judge Benson, Port Hope, and R. S. Gurd, Sarnia.

The first Executive Committee was also formed, comprised of the President and Vice-President, *ex-officio*, and Messrs. Homer Dixon, Robt. Gilmor, N. W. Hoyles, Robt. Jenkins and Fred Stewart, none a resident of St. Catharines except President Merritt. Foreseeing delay and difficulty in obtaining quick decisions and in the handling of local problems, while everything was in the hands of the Board at Toronto, the Headmaster had urged establishment of an executive committee, comprised of St. Catharines residents. This sensible move was finally made, but not until much later.

Still impatient, he felt he wasted an enormous amount of time that spring travelling between Toronto and the Armitage home in St. Catharines, where he at first stayed. His fund-raising campaign could not relax until late May, and before that there was little he could do at the school, but he could not keep away. It was June before he at last had the satisfaction of crossing the lake to stay. He moved into temporary quarters, a small room in town, but spent long hours each day at the school. As he urged on the workers, he never goaded them, seeming to know instinctively the good leadership rule: don't fuss. They liked him; he'd take off his coat to move trestles or lumber, or help a plasterer. It is true some of them may have wished he'd gang awa' hame, as the Aberdeen carpenter was overheard grumbling, but he was getting things done. He was also enjoying himself.

As he kept a watchful eye on the Aberdonian and his men, on Richardson, the gardener, on Riddle, the drain man, on plumbers, painters, plasterers and virtually everything else, the Headmaster completed negotiations with his prospective staff members. By June 27 he had chosen and had acceptances from the masters he wanted; their appointments were approved that day by the new Executive Committee at Toronto.

ACADEMIC STAFF

	<i>Annual Salary</i>
The Rev. J. O. Miller, M.A., University of Toronto; Principal	\$1,600
H. J. Cody, B.A., University of Toronto; Classical Master	1,000
F. J. Steen, B.A., University of Toronto; Modern Languages Master	1,000
W. H. B. Spotton, B.A., University of Toronto; Mathematical Master	1,000

	<i>Annual Salary</i>
The Rev. W. J. Armitage, Wycliffe College; Religious Instruction	—

GENERAL STAFF

Miss Ann M. Cleghorn, Matron	240
Captain George Thairs, Bursar (former secretary of Springbank Sanitorium)	—

APPOINTED LATER

Dr. William Hamilton Merritt, C.M., R.C.P.S. (Edinburgh); Medical Officer	—
Mr. Angelo M. Reed, Royal Conservatory of Music, Leipzig; Music Master	—

As the years wore on, the quality of the small academic staff chosen for Ridley's first year was seen to be unique; perhaps never again was the entire staff to be so unquestionably excellent. Later, the Reverend Rural Dean (shortly Archdeacon) Armitage recorded: "This staff stood out in the annals of Canadian education, not only as marked by brilliancy and breadth of scholarship, but also as displaying the highest qualities of character." That was tribute indeed. If the founders had reservations about their choice of headmaster, they were completely dispelled by this evidence of his unusual ability to judge and assess men. (The Reverend Mr. Armitage had added that his gift of selection amounted "almost to genius".) His staff was composed of the kind of men who could strike a spark in a boy to kindle a flame of high endeavour.

Apart from their common denominator of scholarliness, the remarkable feature of the staff was another similarity: they were all as new to teaching as boys, blackboards and schoolboys' desks were to the spacious rooms of the old spa. They were virtually without actual teaching experience. The young headmaster had taught one winter in a country school but otherwise, like the new School itself, they were all young, and all launching on a new, unknown adventure in life. They were inspired alike by the challenge.

Their scholastic qualifications (below) are from Ridley's first annual calendar, a small combination of prospectus and year book. The comments are a reflection of those stated in Wycliffe's *Jubilee Volume*.

ENGLISH

The Rev. J. O. Miller, M.A., Headmaster, University of Toronto:
honors in metaphysics, ethics and civil polity; Prizeman in English.
Graduate of Wycliffe College: First-class honors; MacPherson
Prizeman.

"He possessed fine intellectual powers, highly trained, an executive ability of high order; he made his plans with wisdom and carried them out with earnest purpose."

CLASSICS

H. J. Cody, M.A., University of Toronto: McCaul gold medalist in classics; first-class honors in metaphysics, ethics and civil polity; Wyld Prizeman in English.

"A man with a notable career ahead of him, the Headmaster disclosed great wisdom in selecting him, and was fortunate to secure him. He brought the highest scholarship to his work, and enforced it by the noblest ideals of Christian character and life."

MODERN LANGUAGES

F. J. Steen, M.A., University of Toronto: First-Class honors in English, French and German; Prizeman in French.

"A man of singularly beautiful charm of manner, of the finest intellectual powers, and rich and varied scholarship, he was given profound respect."

MATHEMATICS

W. H. B. Spotton, B.A., University of Toronto. Stanley Medallist in Mathematics.

"A son of Principal Spotton of Barrie, he had taken a fine course at the University of Toronto, and was well qualified for his post. A man of refined tastes, his influence was good."

This initial academic staff was a wonderful starting example which Ridley would earnestly seek to equal in all the years ahead, in which staffing would be a chronic problem, with each phase of national growth complicating it. The great and almost endless handicap under which an independent school such as Ridley must function is in the steady loss of masters, with replacements almost continuously occurring. It sometimes forces the engagement of masters for short periods, and it is often the most gifted who most quickly move on to fields they consider will be more rewarding. Yet, there are always those great men of education who are dedicated to teaching because they are fascinated by it, and who feel richly rewarded by its satisfactions.

It is these true teachers whose contribution to Ridley was to be beyond measurement. They are the masters who never forget that some words they spoke, a passing bit of personal philosophy, or some action of theirs, may be remembered as long as a boy lives. It is such masters who remain with their school with steadfast loyalty, to become living legends, and often to personify their school's characteristics to such a degree that they themselves become symbolic. The Headmaster was one of these, one of the greatest Ridley was to have because he wisely moulded her principles and character through her first three decades. But the School would have many others, masters through whom class atmosphere and student community life were greatly enriched, and whose personal influence was strong in Ridley's destiny.

The choice of the first classical master perhaps illustrates the quality of the inaugural staff. Stephen Leacock states in his unfinished biography, *Last Leaves*, that he applied for the post, but lost out to H. J. Cody, M.A., a bril-

liant young graduate of the University of Toronto. Mr. Cody was at Ridley from 1889 to 1898, and proved a tower of strength through those formative years. He was a blue-eyed, handsome young man with a squared jaw which correctly reflected his firmness, though he was never to be unreasonably opinionated. He had no pretensions, and even though he had little athletic ability, the boys liked and respected him. When he left Ridley, Mr. Cody studied theology at Wycliffe, and then rose to prominence in church, government and education. He became president and then chancellor of the University of Toronto, but remained close to Ridley all his life, first as a member of the Board of Governors, and then as vice-president.

Mr. F. J. Steen, the choice for Modern Languages, was a man of great personal charm who wielded a quiet, but strong influence among the students after quickly winning their confidence and respect. He was a slight, trim young man, mild but firm, who surprised everyone who heard him speak, especially preach, for the first time. They did not expect such eloquence; he could hold an audience of any size, and his class naturally listened to his lectures with rapt attention. A devout man, he later became professor of church history in the Montreal Diocesan College, and was attached to the staff of Christ Church Cathedral at his death in 1903.

Mr. W. H. B. Spotton, a brilliant mathematician, was not to be with Ridley long, but he was of considerable help to the Headmaster in building school spirit in the first months, apart from his fine scholastic work. He left eventually for a distinguished career in law, practising at Owen Sound.

The first music master was Mr. Angelo M. Reed, a graduate of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Leipzig, who was also organist of St. Thomas' Church. He always had Ridley boys singing in his choir.

George Thairs, the Bursar, had been secretary of Springbank Sanatorium, and came with the building, a most fortunate development. He at once became Ridley's drill instructor as well as the accountant. He founded what he liked to call the Ridley Volunteer Cadet Corps in the School's first term, drilled the boys and imbued them with a fine *esprit de corps*. He was Captain and Adjutant of the 19th St. Catharines Battalion of Infantry (sic) and for years was known to all Ridleians as "The Captain". In later years he commanded the 19th, and thereafter he was always called "The Colonel", with his drill squads dubbed *The Colonel's Own*. He was to be known and respected by generations of Ridleians, and was still bursar and drill instructor at his death thirty-five years later. He made a lasting impression on the School, and on the hundreds of Ridley boys he trained as cadets.

The other key member of the staff was Miss Cleghorn, the Matron. She captured the confidence and affection of the boys from the start. She had been in church social work in Port Hope, but found her true role at Ridley. Inherently patient and kindly, she added a valuable touch of home and

family life to the School. The smaller boys were soon affectionately calling her Mammy Cleghorn. The Headmaster said even before the school opened: "The matron is a brick."

The Reverend Mr. Armitage was in charge of religious instruction for eight years, holding classes in Scripture and Catechism, and preparing the boys for Confirmation. To this day, Ridley has a close association with his church, St. Thomas'.

Two famous early Ridley characters – Shaky the Janitor and Tommy the Cabman – should be mentioned with the first staff members. Shaky was a permanent fixture for many years; all boys of Ridley's first ten years knew him intimately. They also knew Tommy Nesbitt, and imposed on him, too. A load of a dozen or more would climb aboard his cab to head for the station, with only the last ones out – who could be captured – paying their fare. Tommy was good-natured about it; he liked boys. But their Headmaster looked with a jaundiced eye on Tommy's high-smelling stable and outhouse which was so close to the main building it was almost a part of the physical school. He failed to get rid of the odoriferous eyesore until Ridley was able to induce Tommy to sell the School his property a long decade later.

Such were the members of Ridley's family who would assemble well ahead of time, to wait with mingled trepidation and anticipation for the thing that would make Ridley a school at last – the coming of the first boys.

Opening day had already been set but there were times during July and August when September 16 appeared far too close. Frustrations and setbacks seemed countless, for servants, drains, concrete work, plumbing, the laundry, the gravel pit, the plasterers, the painters, the cellar white-washers, all presented problems to make the busy headmaster feel he must work furiously to keep to the schedule, which was to "set up house-keeping by August 25th". Fortunately, President Merritt went off on a holiday, to provide a file of old letters to reveal some of the headmaster's preparation-headaches:

"I thought you understood that the sashes would be rifle green, as in the case of Mrs. Taylor's house?"

"I shall try to get some lighter colour on the verandahs, though it is hard to get any other colour to match the red."

There were accidents to report, with Mr. Miller acting in a first-aid role:

"Barber capped the climax by fall (sic) headlong into the drain and breaking his arm. He caught his foot on a T-pipe wire running up to the surface. I set the arm and made splints of shingle, and tore up one of our valuable sheets to make a bandage.

"The poor fellow suffered a great deal till I got the bone into place. Dr. Leitch paid me the compliment of saying it was a good job."

The gardening went much better, for Mr. Miller reported to the president with obvious satisfaction:

“Richardson has made a splendid job of our garden. I cut down one poplar that completely hid the flagstaff from the R.R. We now have a most beautiful view of the lower stretch of the canal, a much finer bit of scenery than any in the city, according to my view.”

In addition to all the other things to be done, many reassuring letters had to be composed for dubious parents, who were hesitant, as the founders had foreseen, about sending their boys to a new, unknown, untried boarding school with, they expected, an inexperienced teaching staff, and, they had heard, a headmaster who was little more than a boy even if he had a beard. It is true that the masters were all young, and thus the confidence which some parents felt rested only in age, or at least in experienced middle-age, was difficult to instill. However, the new school had staunch friends and allies, especially among the Anglican clergy, and they wrote many a reassuring letter, too.

Applications did not come in a flood, but in June the Headmaster had been encouraged to feel that Ridley's students for the first term would number well over fifty. Earlier, he had hoped the school might be launched with nearly a hundred boys, but he had known that was optimistic, so he was not seriously disappointed in August when he was forced to estimate that only half that number would probably be the student total. He issued house-keeping instructions on that basis. He was very close.

The Directors and the Headmaster had studied and discussed the policies and operational methods of the two established boys' boarding schools in Ontario – Upper Canada College, Toronto, and Trinity College School, Port Hope – and no doubt some features were adopted, some not, by the Headmaster. He knew their existence through inter-school rivalry would be invaluable in creating school spirit.

In general, the new school was organized to incorporate the best operational features of several English boarding schools, with none taken as the specific model. The decision on this was a mere superficiality in comparison to the serious consideration which had been given to the educational design, to the type of school which Ridley would be, academically.

When the first discussions were held about a preparatory boys' school, which was while Wycliffe College was still being established, the minds of these earnest Evangelicals were probably already firmly made up, yet somewhere in that background each had made his choice between the English and American educational systems. The difference was sharp, and strong protests were being heard, that Canada's educational policy was not falling somewhere between the two as it was developed, but was taking on a much

stronger resemblance to the American concept than to the British. The basic difference arose from the contrast in educational purposes. The aim of American education was to help knit and knead the various racial, social and economic groups into a new social order, and in 1888 this was seen by many Canadians as the Canadian need. In contrast, Great Britain had a ready-made society, and the purpose of education was to improve and maintain it. This is reflected in the old prayer so often heard in English school and college chapels: "*That there may never be wanting a succession of persons duly qualified to serve God in church and state.*"

The choice for Canadian educators was whether to adopt the system which aimed at educating the masses – at breadth – and without serious selection for higher education, or to follow the English system which aimed at depth, and which even in 1888 was selecting through stiff examinations a bright minority in the grammar schools for university education. In the United Kingdom at this time, today's sound elementary grounding for all children at state expense did not exist, and the fee system of the grammar schools was bitterly attacked during the rise of socialism. It was called "education only for the privileged". It worked that way; only the well-to-do could afford to send children to the grammar schools. The privileged today are the above-average British students who can pass both the "eleven-plus test" for entrance to the preparatory grammar schools as well as the rigid selectivity of the examination for entrance to a university.

The educational systems of both Canada and the United States are constantly under review and healthy self-criticism, and today there is a sound trend toward selectivity in Canada. The American method is still designed for the masses, vulnerable to a charge that the mediocre shackles the brilliant, but its defenders still argue that the selectivity of the British system, plus much specialization in the universities, leads to narrowness. The exponents of the British system probably retorted in 1888: "Is that not better than shallowness?"

Nothing is formally recorded to say that the founders of Ridley chose the English system to obtain depth over breadth, or narrowness over shallowness. It was probably not even discussed, because they were all of one mind. They were leaders of the Canadian group who were disturbed by the rapid drift of education in Canada toward the mass-educational method, and away from the British concept of selectivity. Perhaps they hoped it could be checked a little by the establishment of Ridley.

It can certainly be assumed they chose the English pattern for Ridley in the sincere conviction it was best for the boys themselves.

Ridley's graduates were going to find far less specialization in Canadian and American universities than they would in the United Kingdom, but their grounding would be right for all.

Specifically, the educational design for Ridley was to prepare boys up to that point – for matriculation at any university, with honours in all departments. Selectivity would be a definite policy at entrance to Ridley, but the average student would not be neglected for the sake of the brilliant.

Included in the curriculum were all the usual subjects, with special attention to the classics, mathematics, modern languages, science and the various branches of the English department. There was a commercial department for boys who wished to enter business life and not a profession, but it was known (and desired) that the majority of Ridley's boys would prepare for entrance into the professions of law, medicine, and theology, and the Royal Military College, with engineering in mind.

To confirm the announced intention "to develop manly and Christian character", the religious instruction of the Church of England in Canada would be worked permanently into the College's daily schedule, but without sign of ecclesiolatry. The Headmaster decreed there would be –

Morning and evening prayers.

Regular instruction in the Holy Scriptures in the first half-hour of each day. Instruction in the Catechism and Book of Common Prayer; and Instruction in Morals.

The list of articles of apparel required by each boy, and supplied as a guide to parents, is interesting for comparison with today's boarding school needs: three suits of clothes; two pairs of boots; one pair black leather slippers; one overcoat; one hat (Christy's make, black, stiff, round); six white shirts; two white flannel shorts; two pairs knickerbockers or trousers; four nightshirts; six pairs socks (to be sent run in the heels); twelve pocket handkerchiefs; four table napkins; four undershirts; four pairs drawers; twelve shirt collars; six pairs white cuffs (unless white shirts are worn); three black neckties; brush and comb; clothes brush; sponge; clothes bag. Every article of clothing, including boots and brushes, was to be plainly identified in good marking ink by initials of Christian names and surnames in full. The flannels "should be made large to allow for shrinking in the wash". ("Flannels made in the College colours may be obtained in St. Catharines.")

The Headmaster was determined that Ridley College from opening day would be meticulous about the students' school dress, especially on Sundays and for public events. All parents were so advised, as their applications for the admittance of their sons were received. On week days the boys *must* wear the regulation College cap, which was a small, natty black headpiece with an orange Ridley crest at the front. On Sundays, they *must* exchange the cap for a black Christy hat. It was not a compulsory regulation, but each boy would be "expected" to wear a black coat and black waistcoat on Sundays. (Within a few years, the junior boys wore the Eton suit on Sundays.)

In tribute to the parents of the "originals" of Ridley College, it should be recorded that almost every boy arrived properly outfitted, with their crested school caps issued as they arrived.

To eliminate pupils with a slow or dull scholastic record, and to assist in the grading of pupils and thus in the balance of the forms, precautions were taken to prevent entrance into the junior forms of boys whose school progress had not been proportionate to their age. ("This group could retard other students, set bad examples, and often lacked discipline.") A definite form of selectivity, it was ruled that this principle would apply –

- (a) No pupil who has reached the age of fifteen shall be admitted to the College unless he can enter the Third Form.
- (b) No pupil who has reached the age of sixteen shall be admitted unless he can enter the Fourth Form.

This selectivity in junior boys was to be a permanent Ridley policy, but similar care was found to be impossible in the admittance of seniors, in the first years especially. Despite the Headmaster's alertness, disclosed by letters asking for both the academic and disciplinary backgrounds of boys at their earlier schools, a number appeared during Ridley's first two or three terms who later would have been refused admittance. It was probably unavoidable, but in the end it was valuable as it emphasized very early the care which must be taken in granting admission to Ridley.

There would be three school terms and three holiday periods in the college year: *The Michaelmas Term*, with three weeks' holidays at Christmas; *The Lent Term*, with one week's holiday at Easter; *The Trinity Term*, with nine weeks' holidays in midsummer.

After much consideration, discussion and even some dissension (we suspect), the fee arrangement for the College had been decided as follows –

Board and Tuition – \$267 per annum

or

Board and Tuition – \$89 per term

However, if fees were paid within 15 days from the beginning of the fall term, there would be a discount of \$27 in the annual fee and \$9 in the term fee.

Day boys would pay a fee of \$67.50 per annum or \$22.50 per term. A small number of St. Catharines boys was expected.

It was not called an initiation fee, but each new boy paid another \$16 on his entrance. This covered \$4 for the maintenance of the boys' library and reading room, and \$12 for the cost of each boy's personal bed linen, towels, etc. Books, stationery and drawing materials were provided by the College "at the ordinary prices".

A little later there was a special fee set for musical instruction, and for the use of instruments: piano, violin and banjo. A Miss Gribble taught violin for the first term.

For a time there would be no scholarships to help Ridley students, and the only bursaries were those which were available to the sons of the clergy in Canada. Each one was worth \$120 annually, and could be extended through all terms. The founders felt confident that the dearth of scholarships, which meant literally hand-picked students, would not last long, for Ridley had thoughtful and generous friends. Even this early, awards and prizes were being volunteered for the first Prize Day, a full year away.

As late as August 29, the Headmaster was greatly perturbed about lack of equipment for the little gymnasium, located in Springbank's old laundry room, part of the annex. He had asked for tumbling mats, horses, parallel and swinging bars and rings, enough dumbbells and clubs for class exercise, and a lot of other things. He was given some of it, but the gym would be makeshift for a time. It worried him; he wrote the President: "A number of people have written about physical training, and we must keep faith with them." The Reverend Mr. Miller's integrity was such that the makeshift period would be brief. The Board had discovered that when the Principal wanted something he considered an obligation, he had a tenacity it was easier to appease than oppose.

He did not quite make the target date for moving in, but on the last day of August "a regular army of washer-women" had finished, and he reported: "Our first meals were pick-nicky, but we are alright now. Miss Cleghorn is going to be a great success."

Then they were into the second week of September. They had set up housekeeping; all the masters had arrived and were installed in their quarters. The Headmaster hurried this message to President Merritt in his Rodman Hall home –

"I have had the three flag-poles put in thorough repair and painted. Can you lend us any flags for the opening? What flags we have are almost past hope but I think we can patch up the Blue Peter. The Red Ensign is a wreck, and the only others are the Stars and Stripes and the Springbank flag.

"If you have a Jack and a Red Ensign, or the Canadian flag, I should like to have them.

"A number of ladies want to come over from Toronto to inspect, and I am rushing things as fast as possible."

Then, with nearly all the workers gone, and the feverish activity of the last few days suddenly stopped, the masters held meetings; courses of study were decided and the first week's timetable was arranged. Books were placed in the classrooms ready for distribution. The Headmaster laid down the rules

which would regulate the School, would make it function. With all that done, there was nothing to occupy them, especially during the last two evenings, but to wait with nervous impatience.

The Headmaster revealed his state of mind by going alone on long nightly inspections of the School. "Prowling", Shaky, the janitor, called it, because he felt his work was under critical inspection. It was really a mingling of worry and pride; he was proudly looking over the physical school he had fashioned from a spa, and wondering if he had forgotten anything important. There were so many things to remember.

He took a pair of big candles with him to light his way, rather than use the gaslights. Although the entire building was well lighted by gas, candles continued to be used by masters on their nightly inspections for many years. The Headmaster had already decided the gas would be turned off at 10.30 p.m. (later 10.00 p.m.) each night, as it was. As a result, an early morning uproar in the school was to occur each time the janitor slept in. He had no hope of not being caught at it; the whole school would send the yell echoing down the dark corridors: "Shaky! Hey, Shaky! Turn on the gas!"

The Headmaster had followed each renovation step by step, and now the first stop of his nightly tour was in Springbank's former beautiful drawing room, which would be Ridley's prayer hall. It was an impressive, handsome room, and his favourite. He was proud of its carved oak and walnut finish, from Niagara trees, and its shining inlaid floor from the same woods. He liked the glancing light of his candles on that beautiful flooring. The room seemed to be waiting in a hushed silence for the first morning prayers.

Other rooms on the ground floor of the main building were converted to classrooms and common rooms, and the upstairs bedrooms were now dormitories, complete with individual cubicles. Purchasing had been done with such economy that he wondered anxiously if they had enough towels, sheets, blankets and other bedding. The weather would soon be cold.

The sanitary fittings were remarkably fine; that is, for those days. The washroom on the ground floor had a battery of metal basins, and upstairs a big bathroom held six metal baths. The school was heated by steam throughout, but this did not provide hot water in its taps. A tub of water could be heated no oftener than twice each day, because of the time consumed through heating the cold water by means of steam running through a pipe in the tub. It worked, even if the device was slow and not very ingenious. The trick was to take a hot, or even a tepid, bath and not be burned by the steam-pipe. ("It was a downright dangerous contraption; some of us who hit that hot pipe preferred a cold bath ever after.") Every boy was expected to take a hot bath at least once a week, sometimes twice, but the slow heating process by the steam-pipe found boys in line and battling at the bathroom door to protect their water with all the determination of Horatius at the Bridge. It was rough on the small boys; too often they had a cold bath, or

none at all and, being small boys, none it often was. ("A lick-and-a-promise was our ordinary programme in the dirt-removal line. In the winter we worked on the principle 'save the surface and you save all'. The number of cold bathers on the winter mornings stood at the irreducible maximum of one . . . me!" – Pussy Wadsworth, a second-termer.)

The cubicles and bedrooms were fitted with washstands, each containing a basin, a granite water jug, and the usual third essential night vessel. The Headmaster knew that in the winter, ice was going to form in the water jug, and that each morning's wash-up would be a cold business. He did not consider this a bit rugged; such frigid ablutions on cold winter mornings were still normal in an average Ontario home.

The long east wing extending toward Ontario Street had not been put in shape for occupancy, but as he examined it on these last nights the Headmaster decided what it would look like when needed: the ground floor would be devoted to study rooms and the enlarged library he already coveted; the second floor would be bedrooms, and also a sick room; the third floor would be more dormitories and a master's study. (This was all done in 1890, when the two floors were christened *Poverty Flat* and *Liberty Flat*.) In the meantime, all unused portions would be "out of bounds", though the Headmaster knew this would react like a magnet; it would be an irresistible challenge to young explorers.

An annex connected the wing with the main building, and here were located his own study, the bursar's office, a small sick room, the Matron's apartments, and the music room. As the shadows retreated before his candles, he realized this was the administrative heart of the School. Above it was a boys' dormitory, which was soon classically called: *Hogan's Alley* (the reason a mystery).

The short wing, running toward Ann Street, held the servants' quarters, and in the old laundry was the first small gymnasium, whose lack of equipment worried him.

Less work had been required on the dining room and kitchen than any other part of the building. A big gas cooking range was still in position, and it had been only necessary to paint the kitchen, add utensils, and furnish the dining room. It all looked fresh and clean, and the Headmaster noted with pleasure on the last night that even the smell of paint and varnish was already growing faint.

For fourteen years this was to be the home of Ridley College, with little alteration. It was to be a happy home. As he looked back, the Headmaster may have felt the months of preparation had been long and tedious, but the time between conception and this fulfilment had been actually short.

On the last day, furniture was moved and removed, and there was other fussing about trifles in the general nervous anticipation. But the friendly human warmth that was to be the mark of Ridley had already spread through "main" and "wing".

A School is Born

"If all the spiritual values were still missing . . . there was something in the atmosphere to foretell that these things would soon be captured in full measure, and made Ridley's own."

DURING the late forenoon of windy, but bright and sunny September 16, 1889, the deep-throated whistle of a little lake steamer signalled to its dock at the Norris Flour Mill on the old Welland Canal that she was coming in. Before a deckhand could heave her bow mooring line, the awaited hoarse warning had gone hooting down the canal, past the gaily whipping flags on the grounds of a spacious red-brick building, and on over the Western Hill beyond the canal. The building was ready and waiting; so were all its occupants.

Tommy, the cabman, was waiting for the boat to dock, his sedate old mare still astonished by the vigour of that morning's brushing. Tommy had even adorned his whip with a festive ribbon of orange and black. He had expected a busy day, trip after trip, cab-load after cab-load, but he was also to be astonished, and vastly disappointed. There was no boatload of boys; there was not even one cab-load of boys; there was just one lone youth, coming hesitatingly ashore, looking a little scared.

Tommy did his duty; he loaded the lad's luggage – he had come all the way from Montreal by boat – and in a few minutes had whisked him to the bunting-draped gate of Bishop Ridley College.

Norman M. Trenholme, Ridleian No. 1, was reporting.

Even if he did not know he was a very important personage, historically – a VIP who symbolized the triumphant transformation of a dream into reality – Norman must have been impressed by the colourful decorations, and probably startled by the size of the welcoming delegation – for just one boy. Three flagstuffs flew the Blue Peter, the Union Jack and the Canadian Ensign in honour of Opening Day; strings of pennants fluttered between the trees, and strips of coloured cheesecloth splashed orange and black through the scroll-

work across the top of the wide verandah. Waiting for him at the open front door was the reception committee composed of the entire staff. They were astonished, too, but not one revealed either surprise or disappointment to the first boy to enter Ridley. Headmaster Miller was smiling his greeting, flanked by a beaming Miss Cleghorn, the Matron, and supported by the masters, Mr. Cody, Mr. Spotton, and Mr. Steen, and the Bursar, Captain Thairs, all of them smiling.

For a shy lad such as Ridleian No. 1, the handshaking was like running a social gauntlet, but there could be no doubt of his new school's warmth of welcome. Even Shaky, the janitor, and Lizzie Trill, the dining-room girl, were hovering excitedly in the background. Lizzie was whispering to Shaky: "Where's the rest? What happened? Where's the rest?"

If the long-awaited thrill of Opening Day was sadly diluted through taking place by degrees, and largely one day late, no one really minded. In the afternoon, Ridleian No. 2 reported in: Walter G. Wood, who had travelled by the Grand Trunk from Millbrook. He was also greeted ceremoniously. Then no more came.

Opening Day supper, with four masters, the bursar, and two boys to sit down, was a little sad for Miss Cleghorn, after all her planning and excited expectations.

When the main invasion took place next day, it may have been something of an anti-climax, but the immense satisfaction of founders and masters was still a glorious feeling. Forty-six additional boys arrived, still by degrees, for they travelled by carriage, boat and the Grand Trunk. Movement and young voices filled the building all evening as they settled down, which was all that mattered. Ridley felt and sounded like a boys' school at once. A boy whistled *Pop, Goes the Weasel*. There was quick racing of feet, then a scuffle, and laughter – young, boyish laughter. The paper school had come alive. Bishop Ridley College had been born, and was at last a reality.

There is no counterpart to the opening of a new school, for such a time can never recur in its history. Each new term would of course find strangers meeting strangers, and shyly or noisily, according to their natures, trying to get acquainted with each other, and with their new life, but now it applied to the entire school family, for even the masters were still breaking the ground of new acquaintance. There was nowhere to look for advice, not even to each other. Nothing had been done before. There were no school traditions or customs; they had still to be formed. There were no past achievements in which to take pride. There were no old loyalties, and no school spirit; such things had still to be sparked, fostered and cherished. Everything was in the making and under experiment.

Few thought of these signs of their painful newness and the responsibility implied. There was an air of sure purpose and confident optimism in the

entire staff. If all the spiritual values which are imbedded in mature schools were still missing, there was something in the atmosphere to foretell that these things would soon be captured in full measure, and made Ridley's own.

If there was confusion on that first school day until forty-eight boys were sifted and sorted into their dormitories and classes, and if the academic development of the School and the principles of life it taught had to be achieved step by step, and for awhile often by trial and error, both masters and students fell into the way of things with remarkable ease. The pattern of school life had taken shape by the third day.

The original 48 boarders (plus 12 day-boys who arrived by spring) to attend the first term, were as representative of Young Canada as any group of lads you might find anywhere in 1889, which only meant there were no two of them alike. A composite Canadian boy is still difficult to put together, and seventy years ago it was probably impossible. There were red-heads, and black-tops and straw-coloured blonds; there were chunky and stubby boys and tall lean ones; some were moody and shy or tongue-tied by strangeness, while some were engaging extroverts, flippant and talkative. They did not differ very widely in their family backgrounds, but their earlier education varied to include tutors, public schools, other independent colleges, and even home-teaching in the case of one or two youngsters. Their racial origins all traced to the British Isles, yet a surprising number were Canadian born, to prove a solid foundation of the new Canadian nation was even then being rapidly laid. There was one American boy, R. N. Lyon of Denver, Colorado.

As the Headmaster and his masters got down to class organization, they soon saw that Ridley's first group of students possessed a high proportion of individualists, with the mark already showing here and there of future men of strong character. There were several serious youngsters with fine minds and the look of budding intellectuals, and there were also so many merry-eyed lads with a reckless devil-may-care look about them, that Headmaster Miller knew he would need to look sharply at his disciplinary measures. In other words, the boys of Ridley's first year comprised the fascinating mixture which all teachers know. Common interests, the influence of the masters and the regulations of school life were drawing them together in less than a week. Friendships were soon forming to last for life.

If that composite Canadian boy was difficult for an average imagination to fabricate, there was another representative figure which was soon discernible. With reassuring quickness, the boys began to create the language, adopt the values and mannerisms, and form the characteristics of the single personality which all terms of the future would know and instantly recognize: *The Ridley Boy*.

It would be premature to describe him now, for he was a state of mind and had not yet developed. He would be the product of thoughtful men, seeking earnestly to guide young minds toward an inherent repugnance to



Springbank in the Springtime



SPRINGBANK: THE BOYS' BRIGHT DINING ROOM
Looking from the Prefects' Table.



THE FIRST PREFECTS' TABLE

At the head of the dining room, *The Prefects*: (l. to r.) Don Bruce Macdonald; George Musson; A. Courtney Kingstone; Louchlon McL. Livingstone; Hume Brough; William Ridout Wadsworth and William Hume Cronyn.

The Brilliant First Staff



THE ACADEMIC STAFF, 1889-1891

Seated (l. to r.): The Reverend J. O. Miller, M.A., Headmaster, (English), 1889-1921; H. J. Cody, M.A. (Classics), 1889-1892; the Reverend F. B. Hodgins, M.A. (English), 1890-4. *Standing*: G. B. McClean, B.A. (English), 1891-3; H. G. Williams, B.A. (Mathematics), 1891-1932; F. J. Steen, M.A. (Modern Languages), 1889-1892. Absent: the Rev. W. J. Armitage, D.D., Ph.D. (Religious Instruction), 1889-1907.

The Originals of Ridley



FIRST BOYS OF RIDLEY, 1889
— Forty-eight boarders; two day-boys —

dishonesty, intolerance and avarice, and to an equally instant impulse for playing fair while driving for a goal with confidence and pride. He would be seen in each group of graduates in all future years. He would be a close personification of the ideal of founders, headmaster and masters in honourable manliness, intelligence, self-reliance and self-respect. He would grow into a man of high principles and unshakable integrity.

That this ideal became both the inspiring permanent influence behind the School's policies, and the core of its own future character, was due to the values established now. The masters knew the responsibility was heavy on them to set that character and to form that influence, as well as to establish the academic standards and create the pattern of the new school's daily routine. The Reverend Mr. Miller and his masters were facing not only the sometimes troublesome present, but all the future and what Ridley was to be.

The first prefects were soon chosen: W. H. Cronyn (the first of a long line of the Cronyn family to enter Ridley); D. Bruce Macdonald (later to be headmaster of St. Andrew's College, founded 1898); W. M. Homer Dixon (son of one of the founders) and N. W. Trenholme, Ridleian No. 1. They helped greatly by their good leadership.

To place this exciting opening of Bishop Ridley College in 1889 into a time relation with familiar events, it was just three years since Louis Riel was executed at Regina, and only six years since Captain Nathan Webb, first to swim the English Channel, had been swallowed in the Niagara gorge while trying to swim the whirlpool. This was still a highly dramatic event to the Ridley boys, who were enamoured by the fascinating interest with which the great Niagara Falls and the rushing river had endowed the countryside. Capt. Webb's daring attempt to swim the deadly whirlpool was still a conversation piece in St. Catharines also, and the boys soon knew every detail. There had been a *Maid of the Mist* below the Falls even in 1883; Capt. Webb had dived, to start his swim to death, from just opposite the little boat's wharf.

Ridley never failed to get excited in future years as dare-devils tried going over the Falls in a barrel, or a wire-walker teetered above them. The boys tried tightrope walking, but no extrovert at Ridley flirted for long with the thought of defying death in a barrel. ("Which is surprising; we tried almost everything else.")

A day in the life of a Ridley boy has not changed markedly through the years since this first term, when everything was on trial. It started at 6.45 a.m. and closed with lights-out at 10 p.m., and prayers, meals and classes, detention and sports, studying and fire-drill, were not unlike what they are today. The boys could decorate their rooms and cubicles, but at this beginning it was a family photograph or perhaps a picture of an athletic hero to go up. (During the second term it was noted that "49 of the 53 boys have Union Jacks in their rooms; 4 have the Stars and Stripes".)

It is only necessary to run down this list of things which the students of

the Preparatory Form and Form 1 (approximately today's Grade VI) had confronting them, to see the boys of Ridley were to be kept occupied:

ENGLISH GRAMMAR: definitions of the sentence and its parts, the eight parts of speech and their classifications, frequent exercises, the elements of composition, letter writing and composition.

SPELLING: Gage's *Practical Speller*; pages 1 to 60.

WRITING: numbers 13 and 14 of the Vere Foster Series of Writing Books with the special object being to cultivate a neat, legible style of penmanship.

GEOGRAPHY: physical and political features of North America, with special reference to Canada, and more particularly to Ontario.

HISTORY: Arabella Buckley's *History of England* – the pages including a short survey of the reigns of the House of Brunswick, from George I to end of Victoria.

ARITHMETIC: the simple rules to the ends of fractions.

MENTAL ARITHMETIC: (oral tests)

BOOK-KEEPING: McLean's *High-school Book-keeping*.

LATIN: Smith's *Principia Latina, Part I* – "the pupils are drilled in the declension of nouns and adjectives; acquire a fairly large vocabulary, and knowledge of the elements of Latin prose construction by means of the translation of simple sentences from Latin into English and from English into Latin."

SCRIPTURE: One selected book from the *Old Testament* and one from the *New Testament*.

The masters were alert to the need to have class decorum well established from the beginning, with their disciplinary expectations clearly understood. It was as if the Headmaster had advised: "Be firm, be stern," which he probably had, on the sensible theory that it was wise to place things under control from the beginning. There was an unmistakable unruly element in this first group of Ridley boys; among them were older boys who had experienced trouble in other schools. Each one was marked, and squelched on the first sign of trouble-making. Besides, the young Headmaster knew that all the usual tactics in the perennial war between schoolboys and master, which has gone on without ceasing since schools began, would be tested in the first week. If detentions flew thick and fast for a few days, until boy and master came to understand each other, it was done with goodwill, and there were no resentments.

It was later recalled with faint surprise that there were no canings by the Headmaster in that first week, and indeed they were few in the entire first term. Ridley had a full share of those enquiring, even reckless young adventurers to whom the challenge of outwitting authority, or of a forbidden caper, was too tantalizing to be resisted, but the masters understood that authority was only being tested. They sent few boys to the Headmaster. Perhaps they sensed that a caning could be a waste of time; these high spirited lads would

consider the penalty of a caning as merely the luck of war. They were just being boys. Their straps were also used sparingly.

The wise disciplinary policy seems to have been adopted in these first Ridley days by the masters themselves which was based on the simple formula that respect for authority would be won as the students came to respect the master. Such an onus may seem a bit rough on the masters, but if they were new to teaching they realized there was no other way to gain control. It became a fixed, if unstated principle of Ridley discipline and method of control from this outset, which meant that force would be the habit of the poor master, the failure. The successful master would resort to force only when everything else failed. The right teaching philosophy seems to have been established very early.

Remarkably successful and long-lasting was a remark during that first term by the Principal to an impenitent transgressor; it was not the type of thing for transmission over the student telegraph, but it was repeated often enough by the serious boys that all could quote it. The Headmaster had sternly said: "Without discipline, neither the College, the masters, nor you, nor I, can keep self-respect." That was down to earth, and understandable; it placed discipline within the light of schoolboy reason. Either then or later he added: "If you cannot respond to discipline, you'll not acquire confidence in command." That was to be remembered, too.

The most important advantage which a boys' boarding school possesses is one which somehow is not often mentioned, though it is obvious. A boy can be given guidance twenty-four hours a day, and it can be very close to individual moulding. Further, the Ridley way of life was both a pure form of democracy and an effective method of teaching good community citizenship. Boys learned to live with each other, and to be tolerant and helpful to others. Authority tried to further this democratic spirit by making sure the boys always felt they were all on the same footing. Snobbery soon had little chance against school values, which were quickly developed, and which were not of the pocket-book or the social register. Each boy was on his own.

The imperative need to establish the right internal relationships – between headmaster and masters, headmaster and boys, and masters and boys – was not forgotten. This is, of course, the most important factor of all in both day-to-day school life and in its influence. It was achieved at the outset in the manner of most effective policies, imperceptibly, without a word said, let alone a formal directive; it seemed to develop spontaneously.

The key to it was probably in the personality of the Headmaster. He had the right touch of English reserve, the quiet dignity of an inherent self-respect. Masters, household staff and students soon knew him as firm but scrupulously fair, easily approachable – *but don't take liberties!* He seemed to sense the wise leadership policy which sought respect before affection, if one of these

had to stand alone. He was not distant, yet maintained distance. Perhaps the attitude of the boys toward him illustrates this quality he possessed for school leadership better than anything else could: the boys respected him; they stood in awe of him, but they were never in the least afraid of him.

He also kept himself a respectful distance from the masters, who invariably admired and respected the Miller intellect and who followed through in the same way in their relationship with the students. A respectful distance between masters and boys was always maintained, but this was seldom so wide a troubled boy could not feel he could confide in a master. The basis they sought was mutual respect, of course; the successful Ridley masters were those whom the boys could consider counsellor and friend.

At Ridley, surnames only were used; the habit was started with the first day of the first term. It was always Cronyn or Livingston ma or Dixon or Anderson mi or Taylor, whether in class, in the dining room, en route to prayers, in encounters between master and boy in the halls, or when playing together on the sports field. ("We had no foolish effeminacies like calling people by their first names. It would have been an indignity.")

Use of surnames only was, of course, an English public school custom. Ridley made it a rigid tradition; it fitted the School, just as neatly as it did Winchester or Harrow, and the boys liked it. Use of a small boy's family name held a flattering hint of manhood. Many a youth went through all the Ridley forms and never learned – or at least did not remember – the first names of a lot of boys who were not close friends. ("If a prefect had called out Frank Mortimer Perry during roll call, 'Esquimau' Perry would have been so astonished he would have failed to come back with 'Adsum'.")

If the boys faithfully followed the masters' lead and only used each others' surnames, they also bestowed nicknames on each other with such abandon that in these early years almost every boy had an identifying dubbing. It was generally imaginative, sometimes mysterious, and very seldom either thoughtlessly cruel or resented. In this first term there was Pop or Ped Anderson; Jonah Jones (son of the Reverend Septimus); Ching Wah Lee (because he canvassed for funds for Ching Wah Home, an Indian institution on an island in the St. Mary's River); Esquimaux Frank Perry; Socker Kingstone (long a vice-president of Ridley); Brownny Rodman Brown (nephew of President T. R. Merritt); Clover Allan; Redney Griffith (a future headmaster of Ridley); Ize Isaacs and Bing Benson (son of Judge Benson, Port Hope, a founder); Stilts MacDonald (son of Senator MacDonald), and Corky Kortright (son of Sir Cornelius Kortright of Orillia).

In 1890 there would be Pussy Wadsworth; Links Alexander (brother of Mrs. Miller from Santa Barbara, Cal.), Goody ma and Goody mi (Wilf and George Gooderham, sons of W. G. Gooderham); Farmer First, Second and Third, for Cartwright ma, mi and tertius (the first two being sons of Sir

Richard Cartwright of Kingston) and Bullets Pellatt (brother of Sir Henry). In '91 the arrivals would include Mike Mitchell; Quart Gooderham (probably also called tertius; son of George Gooderham); Punch Ogilvie (from the Montreal milling family); Casey (M. D.) Baldwin (son of the Bishop of Huron, and cousin of a more famous Casey who came two years later); The Ethiopian, or sometimes Nigger Harry Darrell; Madame Howitt (later a Guelph physician); His Knibbs (H. H.) Knibbs, of Niagara Falls, a famous writer-to-be of American western fiction); Ella Ellwood, and a lot more.

Nicknaming was not so prevalent as the School grew larger, or just did not seem to be, but in these Ridley days it was general. Yet the boys seemed to know when such familiarity was out of place; a little later it was Form III students who suggested that a Fifth Form boy should not be addressed by a nickname except by others in Form V. (*Postscript*: Unhappily, neither records nor memory can identify the owners of the following interesting monikers used in 1889: Spider, Driver, Neptune, Fish (Percy Fisher?), Prinnie, Muldoon, Mississippi, Kid, Dick the Cadet, Bobolink, Rabbit, Toothpick and Ratnip.)

The last unidentified lad – Ratnip – recalls the skeleton in the first Ridley College's closet – and also in its cupboards, kitchen, dining room, basement, and even its dormitories, especially after an illegal midnight feast. Each autumn, as the weather grew cold, the College was infested by canal rats, fat, fearless, loathesome fellows. The first invasion caught them unprepared, with the Headmaster harried, the Matron distracted, Lizzie, the dining-room girl, in hysterics, and Shaky, the janitor, in a state of helpless indignation with the dratted rats. He was blamed because the rats seemed immune to poison or anything else he could do. The first autumn saw rats so bold they would travel the halls and dormitories at night, and Ratnip earned his dubbing by the indignity of having his nose bitten in his sleep. The rodents were later controlled fairly well, but they remained one good reason for the strict ban on food in the dormitories, and perhaps they also kept the Headmaster dreaming about a new, modern school on Western Hill across the canal.

The nicknaming of boys recalls that the Rev. Mr. Miller was known by several terms throughout the Nineties. In casual conversation he was most commonly referred to as Mr. Miller, while his close associates sometimes called him Jo or Joe (for J. O.). Letters from parents and business correspondence invariably used the salutation, "Reverend Mr." In official documents of the Board of Directors, he was referred to as Principal Miller; he signed official orders as principal. This was certainly his official title, but it was reserved for officialdom because headmaster was in general use. He probably favoured it himself; Ridley was frankly modelled after Britain's public schools, and headmaster and prefect were their common terms. It was also favoured by the other independent schools of Ontario, both in the Nineties and later.

When a joint U.C.C.-T.C.S.-Ridley statement was issued in the 1895-6 period, it began: "The three headmasters have decided . . ." Much later, the Headmasters' Association was formed. Headmaster was also favoured because of its British origin by those who feared that Canadian education was developing along American lines. Most important of all, the boys in the Nineties and later habitually called Mr. Miller the Headmaster, referring to "the Head" in their letters home. They even thought of him as the headmaster. Dick (R. M.) Harcourt ('00-'05) and Big Mud (N. W.) Hoyles ('95-'00) both said they never heard the term Principal except on Prize Days. Pete (J. P.) Haverson ('97-'00) wrote an ode to "The Headmaster" in '99 (rejected by *Acta*). In the early Nineties, Mr. Miller was the Headmaster – never the Principal – in their polite conversation, the Head when not quite so polite. He was also nicknamed The Goat, because of his beard, by boys of the late Nineties when they were feeling quite impolite. The boys were still using it in 1914, and later.

The historian has adopted the term headmaster and frequently uses it, alternating with Dr. Miller after 1903. It is a warmer term than principal, and seems to fit both Ridley and his relationship with boys and masters. Besides, the boys' common use of it made it the right term. (*Postscript*: It is revealing that H. C. (later Dr.) Griffith thought it was the right term, too. After the period of the dual principalship (1921-32) which brought principal into general use, he requested that his formal title should be changed from principal to headmaster. No doubt he liked its warmth, and felt that it fitted the character of Ridley. The term headmaster was restored to general use some years before the Headmasters' Association of Ontario submitted its first brief on education, with Dr. Griffith one of the signers.)

One phase of establishing Ridley's democracy which was meant to keep all on the same financial level, proved a problem which defied solution. This was pocket money. Keenly aware of the disruption and trouble which a boy with too much money can cause, a special request was made to parents to limit a boy's pocket-money to 25¢ a week, and not to make the remittance directly to him, but to the Headmaster. It would then be doled out weekly. The theory was good, but nothing could be done about the \$1, \$2 and \$5 bills slipped into letters by a fond aunt or a loving grandmother. The discovery was shortly made (and accepted) that it was as impossible to control the boys' private finances as it was to enforce that standing order: "Boarders are strictly prohibited from having eatables in the bedrooms." Some boys were bound to munch cookies in the dark despite the rats and some were certain to have too much cash to jingle. Aren't boys always hungry? Aren't some born high financiers, and others natural traders and merchants? Ridley, of course, had its share of both types of budding businessmen, and it was soon apparent the College had a free-enterprise democracy.

This was illustrated at once by a pair of enterprising young businessmen,

who founded the first of Ridley's unofficial student trading monopolies, which thrived until 1920. The start of the exclusive concessions was probably a visit to the Bun House on St. Paul Street, by two of the smallest boys in the School – Hersee Isaacs and Harry Griffith. Each had ten cents as capital, which meant their stock could only be two chocolate cakes, as a starter. They waited until after lights-out to go into business, when they figured a boy's hunger pangs would make a piece of chocolate cake the most delicious and desired thing in the world. They were right, too. They sold the two cakes at five cents a quarter. Profit: 100 per cent.

The Pie and Cake trade was away! The next night they had four cakes to quarter and sell. The second merchandising service business was established when another boy invested twenty cents in a supply of chocolate creams, gum drops and chewing gum; after making thirty cents in a day, he announced that he was Ridley's Candy and Gum Concessionaire.

There were risks to such businesses, as all free-enterprisers know. There were rivals and price wars. Collections were often poor, and in clearing up bad debts a boy had to expect to be called Shylock or Scrooge, and worse. The trade was also a little like bootlegging; there was danger of confiscation of supplies through illegal munching by customers in the dormitories. Then, parcels would arrive at Thanksgiving or on birthdays – "Someone was always celebrating a danged birthday!" – with business temporarily ruined.

Eventually, however, ownership of a trade monopoly was honoured by the students, and unofficially condoned by authority. A candy and gum, or pie and cake merchant could sell his concession for a considerable sum, as much as \$25, when he graduated. Fittingly, or perhaps ironically, the internal trade monopolies were stopped in 1920, when one of the two instigators in 1899 – H. C. Griffith – was instrumental in having the concessions bought up and abolished.

A wise system of regular health inspection was started at once. The Headmaster never worried about his own health, but where the boys were concerned he was to be meticulous about the School's health regulations. He decreed that Dr. Merritt, the Medical Officer, would report daily, and would also pay regular twice-a-week visits at a stated hour, when a general medical check would be held. This was done whether there was sickness or not. As a result, many early symptoms were caught before an ailment could become serious, and the School went through its first winter with little more than a few sniffles and head colds, though there was a virtual epidemic of *la grippe* in the town.

Perhaps part of this student healthiness came from the old-fashioned theory that fresh air is healthy, and that it is wise to be outside on cold days, especially for boys. It was never refuted in Ridley's winters; all boys were outside for at least two hours; if they did not ski or skate they were encouraged

to brave the frost in any event. It kept them healthy; Ridley was always to have a lower ratio of cases of illness common to the young in winter than the average city high school experiences.

THE SPORTS PROGRAMME BEGINS

AN ARDENT cricketer, Mr. Miller knew the indisputable value – actually the imperative need – of sports in the life of a school. He probably concentrated nearly as much thought on trying to provide sports activities in this first year as he devoted to the academic curriculum. The most makeshift feature of all of the new school, which had so many rough spots to be smoothed out, was in facilities for games. It worried him for months. The only available playing field was a cow pasture on Ontario Street, just beyond the old Welland Woodruff property. It was filled with rocks, holes and so many hazards for running feet that the Headmaster was determined to find new athletic ground quickly.

The School had not settled down for the first term's studies before he was dickering for land he had been looking at with a longing-eye; it was on the west side of the canal, part of Western Hill, and was owned by John Henry Hainer, descendant of the pioneer settler. The field contained 7.4 acres, which was enough for the urgently needed school cricket and football ground, but despite the Headmaster's sense of urgency, he knew the cash cupboard was bare; so much money was absorbed there must be a delay. The land was not available to the boys until the summer of 1891, and even then President Merritt had to advance the cash (\$1,104) personally. We wonder if the earnest young Headmaster in that first year ever dreamed of the day when Ridley's athletic grounds would be so spacious that nine games of cricket or football could be played simultaneously.

Sport was frankly emphasized at Ridley, starting now, but it seldom was overdone, or allowed to go out of balance. Ridley rapidly became known as traditionally a cricket and football school, with hockey eventually becoming the third major sport, and there were perhaps times when scholars who were not athletes resented the adulation given to the sports heroes. But the day never came when the attraction of a spectator sport was considered more important than the value to the players of the game. Ridley always saw the worth of high athletic repute, for it made the School a desirable institution to attend, and it was of immeasurable value in the *esprit de corps* – the Ridleian pride – it engendered. But Ridley authorities were never to be infected in the period to come when such fabulous financial incomes could be derived by universities from their "sports spectacles" that it sometimes ran away with the judgment of educators. In time of financial stringency, and the inevitable low spots in attendance which come to all schools, there was no doubt

temptation to make too much of the athletic schedule as a form of college promotion, but at Ridley the real value in competitive sport was always seen to be in the strength of body and character it moulds into boys. This attitude was formed now by the Reverend Mr. Miller, and it would always remain unshaken.

One handicap was Ridley's small student population. For the first twenty years at least, the enrolment was so small a limited number of sports had to be concentrated upon or Ridley would have excelled in none. The wise policy was adopted at the outset that cricket, football and hockey, plus track-and-field, and tennis to a lesser degree, would be encouraged. No serious obstacle was set up if the boys disclosed an inclination to turn to lacrosse or baseball, but they were not seriously aided, either.

It is a question whether cricket or football held first place at Ridley in her first ten years. Both were invaluable to Ridley's morale, and in the quality of manhood they fostered. It was already apparent that Ridley could win more public fame from football prowess, because the game was more widely played in Canada, but cricket had a peculiar value all its own. Cricket was seriously encouraged at Ridley from the first day because both the traditions of the game and the purpose of the School sought to foster the same fine boyhood attributes. Not the least of these was sportmanlike conduct on and off the field. Cricket taught team-spirit and unselfishness, an instinct to play hard and never let the side down, but it also instilled an instinctive refusal to win unfairly. In other words, cricket both held the challenge of rivalry and helped to form the very characteristics of honourable boyhood which Ridley sought to mould. "Its not cricket!" was a protest or condemnation which every Ridleian was to understand instantly, and which he used seriously.

A few boys had arrived with lacrosse sticks for the old Indian game had some earnest supporters among Ridley's first boys. One of them argued persistently, declaring: "Lacrosse played in a gentlemanly and skillful manner is decidedly the best game there is." Brown, Flood, Caldecott and Thompson were all accomplished lacrosse players, quite capable of playing in Toronto's Junior Lacrosse League. Lacrosse at this time was so popular in Canada that even the hockey players called lacrosse "the Canadian national game". It is still given that distinction by elder citizens in old hot-beds of lacrosse like Brampton, Fergus, Orangeville and Cornwall in Ontario, and in some areas of British Columbia. Around 1889, baseball was already replacing lacrosse in some Canadian cities. This was not yet so in Canada's small towns and villages; the game there was still lacrosse. A small Canadian boy along the St. Lawrence or in Western Ontario still prayed for a lacrosse stick in his Christmas stocking, not a baseball and bat. St. Catharines had a lacrosse field, but not a baseball park, though the American game was beginning to gain in popularity at the collegiate.

It is not likely that the Headmaster discouraged lacrosse as too rough a

game; he believed in robust games for boys, or he would not have helped make football so important. Serious attempts were made occasionally to popularize lacrosse but all failed, though its exponents argued that equipment cost less than for football. (Lacrosse sticks cost only \$1.25 each when purchased in wholesale lots in 1890.) The Headmaster might have pushed lacrosse because it was so purely Canadian, but the rugged game seemed to languish at Ridley because cricket and football took hold quickly, followed by hockey.

Association football – soccer – and baseball encountered a similar fate at the School, perhaps for the same reason. Year after year groups of boys kicked a soccer ball around after rugby practice, with form and later house teams meeting each other at the end of the football season, as they still do; soccer was to rise and fall in popularity, but it never became organized seriously except as an intramural Ridley sport.

Baseball also never came close to reaching the status of a major sport at Ridley. It was played at intervals, quite seriously in some early years, with a determined effort made to popularize it in 1902. Numbers of American boys were always on Ridley's roll, but baseball, like lacrosse and soccer, could not oust the position shortly attained by cricket, rugby and hockey.

How desperate Headmaster Miller was to provide vigorous games during Ridley's first autumn term will be evident in an improvisation by Capt. Thairs. All boys who had been eliminated from the first two squads of footballers played the drill-master's invention – tick-and-run. It was a small boys' form of baseball, played with a tennis ball and using a broom handle for a bat. Such a kid's game was scorned by some of the older boys, but the small lads thought it was a lot of fun. Tick-and-run was played only in that first autumn; it illustrates how seriously the Headmaster was thwarted in getting games organized.

There was a sound purpose behind the Headmaster's determination to obtain full participation in sport. He knew that out of the excitement and struggle of hard-played games by fighting School teams, and in the rise of a sense of proud rivalry engendered by inter-school contests, must come that intangible, but invaluable force called school spirit. This was reason enough for his constant preoccupation with Ridley's athletic programme, but there was also another reason. Vigorous and constant athletic exercise for boys was the best antidote he knew to the natural curiosity of teen-agers about sex. Drill squads were good exercise, and the Bursar was taking that over, while a carpenter was busy making dummy wooden rifles. But games were more effective, on the theory that if a boy could find satisfaction in playing the man in sport, he would be too busy and healthily tired to think very much about his urge to prove his manhood sexually. It could be controlled, or at least postponed. The so-called enlightened day when lectures on sex in preparatory schools would treat the subject frankly and openly, was still far off, but even

when hesitant lip-service approval was beginning to be paid to this theory, the value of healthy exercise in a preparatory school for teen-age boys would still be highly important. Ridley's masters, beginning with the School's first panel of them, seldom included men who gave an impression to the boys that they thought sex was evil or unclean, and only to be discussed in whispers, with a leer. Smutty stories and suggestive jokes were as rigidly taboo as foul language, as part of Ridley's ceaseless effort to teach and foster cleanmindedness. The principal ally in this was to divert young minds from sex by keeping them constantly busy with some vigorous game.

As a basic theory, it was remarkably effective; the small boys sought to emulate the stalwart athletes and to scorn the sniggering teller of a smutty tale.

This factor in boy-training no doubt added to the Headmaster's sense of urgency about sport and probably helped cause the premature creation of a School football team that first term to meet outside competition. It was certainly unlikely that he hoped such a hastily formed and sketchily trained team could carry the orange and black to gridiron fame. Football's main appeal to him was its fifteen men to a side. He was a cricketer, not a footballer, but during this first Ridley autumn he was all-out for football.

Canadian football was still played with emphasis on the foot, a much closer counterpart to English rugger than to Canadian collegiate football of today. The constant scrummaging pile-ups spoiled it for spectators, but football in 1889 was just as symbolic of young masculine brawn and power as the game would be seventy years later, if not demanding quite so much in quick reflexes. But it was the kind of rugged exercise the Headmaster wanted.

The trouble was that they had nowhere to practise except among the rocks and holes of the cow pasture. They cleaned up the rocks, but the uneven ground was actually dangerous. The Headmaster took the risk of accidents. He had a good proportion of Ridley's boy-population sallying forth to the cow pasture at four o'clock every afternoon to practise furiously. He saw the value of a master who was also a footballer, and no doubt mentally determined to find one before many football seasons came around. These first Ridley football squads had to be coached from a book, but the boys still strove with young might-and-main to make the first School football team in Ridley's history. There were a lot of hard-running forwards and fiercely determined backs when they learned challenges from other schools had been accepted. A School team was chosen, and a second team then battled them fiercely. There were no broken legs from hitting the field's holes, but a lot of blue bruises and red, barked shins were displayed with pride.

It would be satisfying to relate that Ridley's fine football reputé of the future was forecast by the showing of this first team of football novices. But such was not to be; they did not realize how green and poorly coached and

trained they were. There was no lack of sheer try, but they knew little about punting, had no finesse to their attack, and had neither experienced coaching nor field leadership to help them stop a well-drilled team.

The result was inevitable, and no doubt should have been foreseen and avoided. But the spirit of Ridley that first autumn was marked by impatience to become established, especially in sport. Ridley played two football games in late October, 1889, which they later tried hard to forget. It was with wry chagrin that Old Boy A. W. Taylor recalled that pair of games. The first, against Hamilton *Victorias*, was played on St. Catharines lacrosse field. Ridley lost 60 to 0, despite hope of a rallying inspiration in the new school cry: "R-I-D-L-E-Y! R-I-D-L-E-Y!" It was soon an appeal of desperation, and then a cry of despair.

The return match in Hamilton was not quite so ghastly, but it was still grim; Ridley lost, 40 to 0, despite a fine game by their team captain, W. H. Cronyn, who starred two years later with Varsity Seconds – the first Old Boy to gain sports fame. ("We went home on the Grand Trunk with our heads down.") Masters, prefects and players were frankly relieved that the frost and snow came early enough that such football disasters could not be repeated. They determined fiercely to reverse things soon (and they did, by a 64-0 shellacking inflicted on St. Catharines Collegiate the following year).

Amid the excitement of games, anxieties over the academic programme, and the strain of a situation which held many unexpected problems because everything was new and under test, the Headmaster had begun to make his Sunday evening services in the wood-panelled prayer hall interesting to his boys. He took all services himself during this first autumn, developing such facility in delivering brief, memorable messages to boys that Ridley's Sunday evening services became a fast tradition. He had also begun the traditional close association between Ridley and St. Thomas' Church in St. Catharines. At the urging of the Rev. Mr. Armitage he preached at St. Thomas' one autumn Sunday morning, and again at the service on New Year's Eve. On three occasions that fall and winter he also preached at Merritton, and once at Hamilton. He was always invited to return to preach, which says that he was an accomplished, interesting speaker, but before spring nearly all invitations had to be refused. His school absorbed him, and nearly all his time.

THE story of hockey's struggle to reach the status of a major sport in the independent schools runs all through Ridley's years. The Headmaster saw there was intense enthusiasm among the boys for the game, and encouraged it. He liked it for Ridley because, like lacrosse, it was Canadian, and thus offset the strong English character of cricket without diminishing cricket's importance. The hockey enthusiasts soon discovered they were a long stride

ahead of hockey's development in the schools, and ahead of organized hockey generally. It should be remembered that it was only between 1888 and 1900 that the first covered rinks were being built, and that Canadian banks, industrial and commercial organizations were rather slowly beginning to sponsor hockey teams – junior, intermediate and senior. Organized hockey leagues were springing up, but full development had to wait for covered rinks. Ridley was up with the general advance but for a long time they were only occasionally able to cajole or dare Upper Canada or T.C.S. to meet them on the ice. Ridley played only one hockey game (1896) against U.C.C. between 1889 and 1919, when the second U.C.C.-Ridley hockey game was staged. In the hockey season of 1891 just ahead, Ridley's young players discovered they must play against themselves. The permanent fate of Ridley's hockey was the need to seek competition wherever and however it might be found, but the game succeeded from the outset despite all early handicaps.

The canal had not frozen when Ridley emptied at the end of the Michaelmas term for the first Christmas holidays, but ice was waiting for the boys when they returned. On Boxing Day, a sharp January frost had turned the canal into a sheet of glass overnight, and half the school seemed to be racing for the canal with their skates and hockey sticks within twenty minutes of the arrival of the Toronto train at the Grand Trunk station. A rink had been cleared of snow, and was ready and waiting.

Good skaters were among the term's students, and if spring-skates fell off their boots with infuriating frequency, they had some rousing shinny games on the canal, ten to fifteen boys to a side. Commercial hockey equipment was rapidly improving as the popularity of the Canadian game increased, but in this winter of 1890 they found that a home-made hockey stick of straight-grained ash or hickory could survive the indiscriminate battering of shinny much better than the inferior store-bought sticks, all that were available locally. The following year, a supply of strong factory-made hockey sticks was purchased by the College, and resold to the boys at wholesale cost, but so many of these were quickly broken there were several re-orders. (*Postscript:* The National Hockey League estimated in 1959 that forty sticks per player were required in a season, and the attrition in pucks pocketed by spectators as souvenirs was eleven per game. Ridley, in 1890, lost few pucks but few hockey sticks were surviving a full game.)

By the end of January (1890), the form teams were playing out a schedule, but they had discovered there was no one to meet the School team they had chosen, and which declared itself ready to challenge all comers. Competition could not be found anywhere – “and it was pretty monotonous playing ourselves”.

When mild weather ruined the canal ice in February, a few enterprising young hockey enthusiasts decided they might get in some practice by paying

fifteen cents to enter St. Catharines' skating rink on a Saturday afternoon. But their attempt to play hockey among the skaters caused indignant protests; the Ridley boys and their hockey sticks were peremptorily ordered to lay aside their sticks or get out of the rink – without a fifteen cents refund.

They did not yet know, but there would be frequent repeats of the wry annual report by that first winter's hockey secretary: "Games played 0, games won 0, games lost 0."

It would not have stopped them, if they had known, for the hockey infection of a boy can only be treated by letting him play hockey.

A boy really had to love hockey to play the game in these days. The forwards, rover, point and coverpoint men had no shoulder pads to ease the shock of body-checks. Only their knitted mitts protected their knuckles from slashing sticks, and those heavy hickory shillelahs could flail about in fearsome fashion in the hands of a boy uncertain on his skates. Goal-tenders faced a fusillade of wild-flying pucks (sometimes a stone in lieu of a rubber puck) with only a rolled newspaper for a shin-pad, and were suspected of suicidal tendencies. Even when goalers wore cricket pads they still did not have a special, wide-bladed stick. In addition, the youngster who chased elusive pucks on spindly legs over rough ice in 1890 had no dream of making the Maple Leafs or the Canadiens of the National Hockey League; there were no hockey heroes to spur him on. That sound penetrating his toque or ear-flapped cap was wind, not applause. It whistled across his open-air rink, eddying the snow in the corners, and building it into drifts overnight, to make him shovel for an hour in the morning to get playing surface again. Hockey spartans and pioneers played on Ridley's canal rink that winter.

The teams who were on water-covered ice for the final inter-form clash deserve recording; surprisingly, the team representing Forms II and III defeated combined Forms IV and V.

Forms II and III: Goal, Arthurs; point, Allan; coverpoint, W. Ogilvie; forwards, Ryckman, J. Evans, N. Ogilvie.

Forms IV and V: Goal, W. Evans; point, G. P. MacDonald; coverpoint, W. G. Wood; forwards, Hayne, Kingstone, D. B. Macdonald.

In addition to shinny on the canal there were excellent toboggan slides on nearby hills in the winter of 1890; in the Niagara area the snow was deep during January, with some soft, melting periods in February. One slide curved at the base of a hill to give a long clear run down the ice of the canal; it was crowded with toboggans and sleds until the early-falling dark, as long as the snow lasted. (The School's Chinese laundryman's view of tobogganing: "Zippee half-a-milee. Then walkee back. Phoo!") The boys did not mind the return trudge up the hill; if a small boy lacked a real toboggan he'd use a serving tray from the dining room (until caught).

The Canadian-born boys knew how to enjoy such a winter. School discipline was often severely taxed to control snow-balling when irresistible targets were in sight. The masters joined in fort-making and pitched snowball fights, which perhaps made it more difficult to halt the hurling of hard-packed balls of snow at strangers and visitors. Even President Merritt's silk topper was not safe when he paid a call on a sunny winter day. Constantly in hazard were the boys' Christy hats on Sundays; they were so tantalizing to the town boys that going to church for the young Ridleians was like running the gauntlet. One Sunday a major snowball battle was staged outside St. Thomas' Church, when a group of Collegiate boys ambushed a handful of Ridley choir boys, who had left the School early. The fracas was viewed by the church people on their way to worship and pronounced a disgraceful exhibition of rowdiness, but the Headmaster was just; he officially ruled the battle a purely defensive engagement by the Ridley forces. Besides, they had routed the enemy.

As the first robin was seen on Ridley's lawn, before the break-up of the ice on the canal, the boys were intrigued by signs of the Headmaster's plan to make the old Welland Canal, once called The Twelve, a Ridley waterway. (*Postscript*: The original creek, 12 miles from the mouth of the Niagara River, thus The Twelve, had been drying up when the canal was built or there might have been no waterway, just a valley.)

The canal was a ready-made asset to the School's sport, especially in the summer, so now the boys were watching heated discussions, much cogitating and measuring by a group of carpenters, whose job on the banks of the canal seemed a bit confusing. The boys took it that this only meant boat-houses for canoes, perhaps a diving board or two, and a new wharf, but before the cricket season was well forward both boys and the towns-folk were puzzled by a mysterious structure, most of it under water. It was against the canal bank, directly in front of the Main. It soon took shape, but it remained such a surprising thing that an explanation was required before it could be recognized as a gigantic bathing crib. Veteran canal-boat men said they had never seen its like before. Neither had anyone else.

It was the Headmaster's inspiration, a safety-measure; he not only wanted to add swimming to the School's programme of summer sport, he also knew it would be impossible to keep boys who were unable to swim away from the dangerous canal. The old canal was a bit turgid, but it was fourteen feet deep, and could be a threat to careless boys. He decreed that every Ridley boy must learn to swim – in his weird bathing crib. No boy would be permitted to try the canal until he was an able swimmer.

That crib was never forgotten by boys who attended Ridley in the School's first years. Artistically, it was an architectural monstrosity, but it was functional; above all, it worked. The Headmaster had been warned that it must

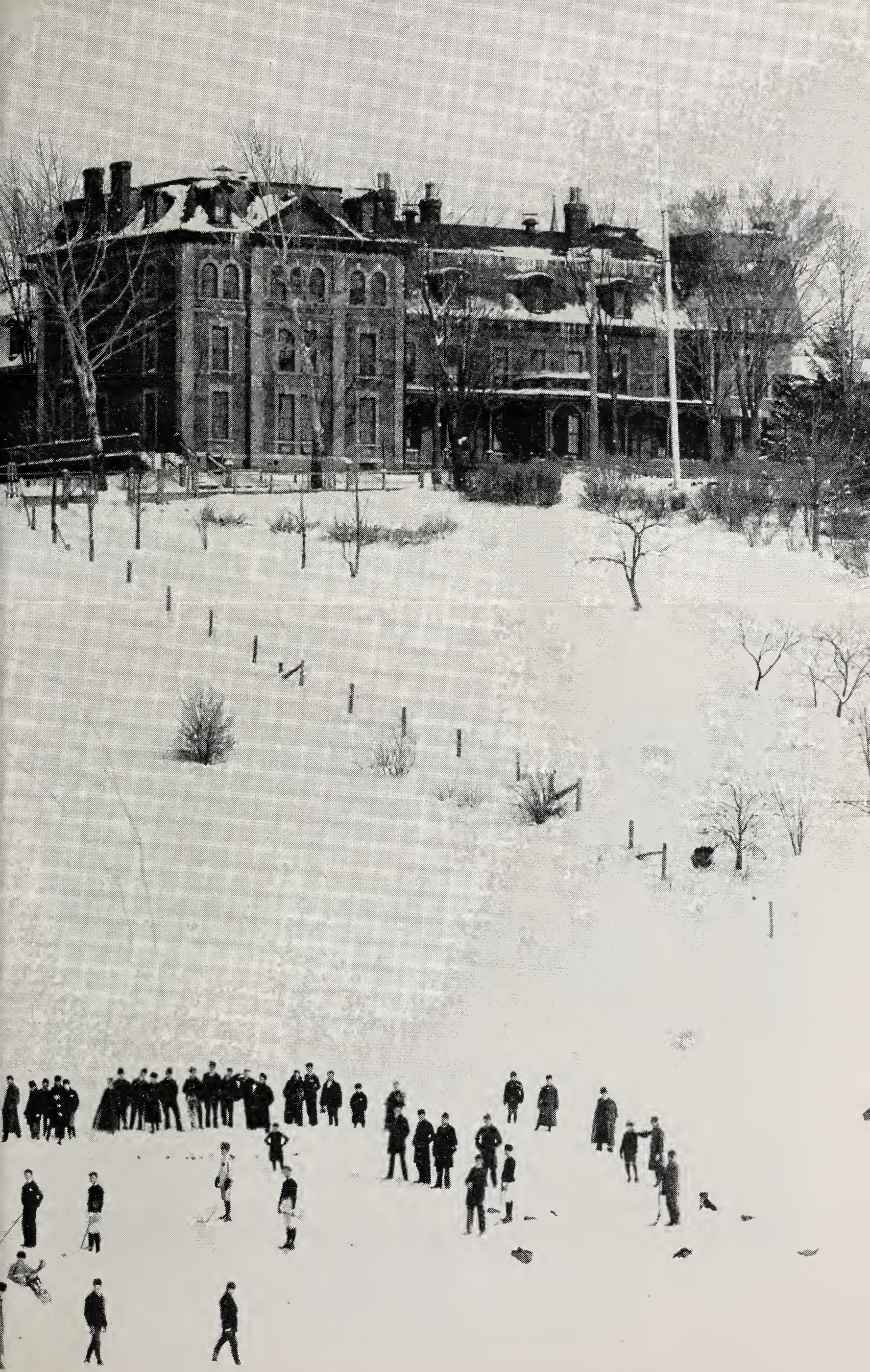
be strong, for canal scows and boats could smash it in passing, as they did every wharf Ridley constructed. So the crib was strongly built of heavy timber; its basin was forty feet long and eighteen feet wide, with stout trellis work on three sides to let the water flow through. When completed it was like an immense plank-bottomed bathtub. But the water was only two and a half feet deep against the bank and only four and a half feet deep in the centre. ("The worst thing was the splinters. The good swimmers among the seniors were the instructors; they tried to stop pranks around the edges, but every now and then there'd be a yell of anguish. Another splinter! In a boy's backside! A prefect would go to work with the tweezers, kept at the crib for the purpose. We didn't bother about an antiseptic until later. We were all so healthy we were hard to poison anyway.")

In 1890, the canal was not the fast-flowing power stream it is today; yet the current was deep and powerful. It was actually a canalized river rather than a true canal. The *Lakeside* came well up from the mouth to pick up St. Catharines and Ridley passengers near the Mill and would then turn about for Hamilton and Toronto, but flat-bottomed canal scows and shallow-draught grain boats went past Ridley's bathing crib, and on through the canal. (*Postscript*: The owner of forty-seven slow, canal tow-horses, which were stabled in St. Catharines not far from the College, put up a huge sign: "Riding School." He thought the Ridley boys would be clients, but they were not interested. As the boys said: "Who wants to ride on a Clydesdale?")

A boathouse was soon constructed near the bathing crib, and an active and popular Canoe Club was formed simultaneously. In the first year, fifteen canoes were housed in it, and canoe racing not only followed, but new excursions and explorations became possible. Twice a year Canoe Club trips were staged over open Lake Ontario water to Niagara-on-the-Lake, and there were frequent week-end visits to Jordan on Fifteen-mile Creek. Explorers liked to go up Martindale's Creek to the marsh, which was infested with black-water snakes and repulsive mud-puppies, but which was also alive with birds – gallinules, least bitterns, coots, marsh wrens, blackbirds and mallards.

The old Welland Canal was closed to traffic in 1898, when the canal was re-routed, and hydro-electric developments were constructed toward the Fort Erie end, but this made it more useful than ever to Ridley. From a lock, a few hundred feet from the School's front door, there was a stretch of picturesque stream, two miles long, which was perfect for Ridley's canoeists and accomplished swimmers.

RIDLEY's first cricket season was featured by its earnestness. It was at once obvious that Ridley's first group of students included a host of eager cricketers; they were practising bowling in the gym before the snow



Springbank and the canal-side rink — 1890



THE FIRST GYM—IN THE SPA'S OLD LAUNDRY

This was all of it, and almost all of its equipment.



RIDLEY'S FAMOUS CANAL BATHING CRIB

The canal was 14-feet deep, free-running and uncontaminated by industry.
No boy could try the canal until he could swim.

was gone, and on the first sunny day they had usurped the stretch of fresh, green lawn beside the Main, to the stamping ire of Richardson, the gardener, when he saw the bowlers in action. He did not want its surface cut up by cricket stumps; it was intended for tennis.

They then went down the street to the cow-pasture, chasing a herd of cows into another field before they could lay out their cricket pitch. Despite such primitive conditions for practice, the experienced eye of the Headmaster, a solid and skilful cricketer who was the first cricket coach, saw encouraging signs to tell him that Ridley would field fine cricket elevens in the next two or three years. Inter-form rivalry was high. To spur their enthusiasm, a School team was chosen. The following were the first Ridleians in College history chosen to wear the coveted orange and black cricket colours.

RIDLEY'S FIRST CRICKET TEAM (1890)

E. H. Anderson; Hume Brough; H. E. H. Dixon; W. H. Dixon; H. S. Jones; A. N. MacDonald; G. P. MacDonald; K. W. Millichamp; E. W. Symmes; G. Wallbridge; W. G. Wood. The cricket captain was Hume Brough.

No challenges were accepted or issued with other cricket teams, partially because they did not have a field fit to offer a visiting team for a return match; it was one thing for the Ridley players to encounter hilarious, but never serious fielding accidents on the rough ground amid the cow pancakes, but quite another thing to risk physical injury to others, or to subject the flannels of fastidious visitors to such an unseemly hazard. In addition, the shocking fate the fall before of Ridley's footballers, through playing other teams prematurely, clearly counselled caution; Ridley's young and uncertain school spirit was developing in heartening fashion, but it should not be asked also to withstand a series of cricket shocks, at least not so soon.

The top batsman of 1900 was W. G. Wood and the leading bowler was Hume Brough, the team captain. It was a good initial year. Many cricketers steadily improved themselves in some fine inter-form matches, with only occasional accidents to fielders among the cow-flaps. The Headmaster was encouraged at the impatience, if unjustified confidence, of the colour men; they were eager to face other cricket elevens. He assured them that they would in the second season.

By this first spring, Ridley's students had almost forgotten their college home had been a fashionable spa. An early Ridley annual calendar describes their mineral spring as "a famous specific for certain diseases, widely used in the summer months". Every curious boy sampled it, of course, but anything characterized as a medicine could never be a popular drink with boys. When they moved in, the Turkish bathrooms where patients had been "steamed" were not yet dismantled, but there was little other evidence of the School's old health-resort role. (*Postscript*: If their mineral spring was ignored, the

attentive administrators remembered that both the Turkish-bath fittings and "the waters" might have commercial value. They later sold the fittings and, in 1900, the mineral well was leased to The St. Catharines Mineral Water Company for ten years "for bottling purposes only".)

THE inaugural academic year came to a close with the parents and families of Toronto boys boarding a steamer at the foot of Yonge Street at 9.30 a.m. on July 4, and others heading for St. Catharines on the morning Grand Trunk train. It was only by chance that the year-end ceremonies were held on the American holiday, a July 4 which was very hot, with a blazing sun.

The School itself was astir early in eager anticipation of this first Prize Day in the history of Bishop Ridley College. All were dressed in their best, and Miss Cleghorn and the servants, especially Richardson, the gardener, and Shaky, the janitor, had the building and its grounds polished and groomed. There was much bustling in the dining room for there would be important guests for lunch. Some events on the afternoon programme were even rehearsed, for the School would be on public display for the first time.

The number of speakers on the formal programme was wisely limited because of the heat. An imposing number of dignitaries were seated on the platform, erected on the lawn under the trees which gave them some shade, but the audience of masters, students and their folks had to suffer it out – both the sun and the speeches.

President Merritt and the Reverend Mr. Armitage both spoke of the importance of this day to the future of Ridley, and of its significance as the marker of the foundation year of the new college. The Reverend Mr. Miller's eloquent speech was the keynote, for he now began the custom of using Prize Day to re-emphasize the educational philosophy of Ridley to the parent-audience.

No less than thirty-eight of Ridley's sixty boys were on the prize list, to testify to a highly successful school year despite much improvisation and testing (and also to a policy of scattering encouragement as widely as possible).

Considering that Ridley's customs and pattern of activities were not yet firmly established, this first annual report on her academic year was surprisingly effective. Parents and visitors were impressed. But the top academic honour could not be presented because the results of the matriculation examinations were not yet known, and a second award, which was to become the most coveted of all Ridley accolades, and a great Ridley tradition, had not yet been established.

W. H. Cronyn, who had captained the footballers, was later recorded as

first Head Boy of Bishop Ridley College, a title emblematic of Ridley's most important scholastic award. He was a year too early to be the recipient of a gold medal from the President because this award to the Head Boy was not established until 1891. Cronyn was the first Ridleian matriculated to a university, which was no consolation to the Ridley footballers who lost him. He went to Varsity.

Many prizes were presented, even if a little more time was required to make the College's annual award-list truly imposing. The most important prizes were those for the top scholars in each form, with different donors for each.

Forms V and VI

D. Bruce Macdonald The Sir Casimir Gzowski award.

Form IV

W. G. Wood The Hon. E. Blake, Q. C., M.P., award.

Form III

A. W. Anderson The A. H. Campbell award.

Form II

A. A. Allan The Charles Moss, Q.C., award.

Form I

W. E. H. Carter The N. W. Hoyles, Q.C., award.

In addition, there were special prizes for Latin, French, Greek and German; for history, geography, mathematics, reading, spelling, writing, scripture and divinity; and J. C. Ardagh won Mrs. T. R. Merritt's prize for dormitory neatness. As a spur to cricket, J. V. Pauw offered prizes for the best seasonal cricket averages: W. G. Wood won for batting and Hume Brough for bowling. Such special prizes were to be offered later for many other phases of Ridley activities. By the second year there were additional awards for Latin and Greek prose, persistent diligence, music, drawing, and squad prizes for smartness in drill.

Many eyes were on the new school, and several Canadian newspapers reported the first Prize Day's proceedings. The Board of Directors were especially pleased with the report carried by the *Toronto Mail* on July 5, 1890. It was congratulatory and encouraging, concluding with this tribute, not to the School or her masters, but to the students: "The boys were all in the best of spirits and conducted themselves in a highly creditable manner." They were so well behaved and meekly innocent in front of their parents, their masters could hardly recognize some of the mischief makers.

When the School re-assembled after the summer holidays the student population had increased satisfactorily. For Ridley's second year there would be eighty-seven boarding students. To accommodate them, the first expansion took place: the "wing" was opened, and the smaller lower wing (*Poverty Flat*) had taken on an entirely new atmosphere. It had been used largely for

studies for the upper forms and as storerooms, but now its bare walls had been decorated "as magnificent bedrooms". Even when day-boys were added, the School's total roll was still far from the Headmaster's first target for Ridley, a hundred students.

One occupant of the freshly papered bedrooms was the wearer of a gown and a mortar-board. He was a new master, the Reverend F. B. Hodgins, a scholarly cleric, a fine musician, and a personality who proved a valuable Ridley asset both in the classroom and in the day-to-day life of the School.

There was another "first" that autumn of 1890: the first influx of "new kids". They were greeted and accepted with a touch of lordly condescension, which even a one-year veteran considers his right, but otherwise the routine of Ridley had already fallen into a firm pattern. It was now to be polished and extended, both academically and in sports. Initiation was timorously tried, but if the first nervous new boys were harried a little, all pranks were harmless. It would be different next year.

Still another adjunct had unexpectedly been added to Bishop Ridley College – a small house on Duke Street, which was almost immediately as much a part of Ridley as any section of the "main" and "wing". During the summer, the Reverend Mr. Miller had been married in New York, to Miss Katharine Alexander, an event which not only changed his personal life but also the atmosphere and life of Ridley herself. His bride happily exchanged gracious family mansions at Toronto and Santa Barbara, and the fascinating social life which went with them, for a tiny house in a quiet Ontario town, and seemed to be enthralled with the role of headmaster's wife at a boys' school. She merged with her new life so completely she at once became virtually a member of the staff. Within a week, the little house on Duke Street seemed always – at all hours – to be filled to bursting with masters, prefects, good boys, bad boys, Capt. Thairs and the boys of his drill squads, or Miss Cleghorn and her housekeeping staff. Mrs. Miller and Miss Cleghorn soon seemed to be eternally darning boys' socks, while the school talk flowed on.

It was in this small Duke Street home that a daughter was born a year later – Nan, known to generations of Ridleians, and the only girl ever to attend both Upper and Lower School forms. Now Mrs. Laddie (Hamilton) Cassels, whom she met at Ridley, she recalls that her mother always hired the servants. ("She would only engage Scottish girls – not English or Irish – because she was adamantly convinced a girl from her own Scotland would be industrious, clean and conscientious.")

Her father had been seeing to it that Ridley was a "singing school" – the Glee Club choruses and musical concerts had become an established feature by the time Nan was four or five – and music was one of her mother's great interests. She recalls that the central administrative core of the School – her father and mother; Miss Cleghorn, the Matron; Capt. Thairs; some of the

masters and prefects – had another characteristic. They were always gay and laughing. Cheery voices and quick laughter created the atmosphere of the Duke Street house. (“It needed very little to resound with gales of merriment.”) And there was always music in the little home on Duke Street. Boy composers would diffidently sneak sheets of music to Mrs. Miller who knew she was meant to try the refrain. This was also Nan’s duty when she grew older. Somehow, two or three boys would sidle into the house when they heard the piano, and a gay melody would soon attract a crowd of boys, returning from the football field, their helmets dangling, sweaters trailing, faces dirty. They would gather outside the low living-room window and suddenly would be singing, with zest and volume.

It was a happy headmaster who faced Ridley’s second year, an important one, for it meant solidification of some things, the discard of others, and great improvement in student life, along with many innovations.

With vast satisfaction, the cricketers and footballers saw that the playing field across the canal had been worked and seeded, with new trees planted around its border. Its turf was not firm enough to risk premature cutting-up by football boots, but they escaped from the cow-pasture because the St. Catharines Lacrosse Club was generous in granting Ridley the use of their fine games field. It was there that Ridley’s first annual Sports Day would be held in October.

The footballers, stung by the catastrophes of their first year, were determined to reverse that horrible experience, or at least to make a great showing, but it was not until their third game of the autumn season that pride in Ridley’s football prowess, which was to become a great school tradition, had a chance to take hold and make its start. They were still without experienced coaching but Mr. Steen had played a little football, and the Headmaster had Varsity footballers come over to give basic advice on two Wednesday afternoons. They helped, even if self-coaching from a book was still the pattern.

The first match was played on the lacrosse field against the *Canadians* of Toronto. The Ridley team had the temerity to be confident, and in action did disclose some good individual play, but as a team they seemed disorganized. (“They were not drilled; they lacked leadership and team-play; they needed practice – hours of it!”) Though putting up a desperate defence to offset ineffectual forward play, they lost 7-0 without once threatening to score, but nothing serious was done to right things until the second game finally taught the lesson which had not been heeded after the first loss. Ridley went to Hamilton to play the *Ontarios*, and went down to defeat, ignominiously this time, by a score of 19-0 on a field of mud.

One school report was a complaint: “The referee did not seem to know even the rudiments of the game and greatly favoured the home team. If there had been an impartial referee, the score would have been greatly

reduced." This complaint in 1890 is notable because of its rarity; it is so out of character it remained a pariah among Ridley sport reports, a despised excuse-making lapse which is not encountered again in all the years of reports on all sports to come.

Today's footballers and fans will only marvel how a single official could be expected to spot foul-play or offsidcs with thirty players battling hard on the field. He had to be referee, umpire and linesman. Fortunately, a second official became regulation in another year.

The complaint did not lessen the shock of the second beating, so practice was rugged before the third, and last, game. School spirit was aroused. Everyone was up in arms. The number of footballers who turned out in the interval to try and make the revised first team, or just help them practise, was double any previous showing. It testified to the intense feeling which had developed throughout the School over the football situation.

G. Ryckman, former half-back of the *Ontarios*, had entered Ridley, but they had lost a great footballer in Wallbridge who was ill. Another new addition, Kenneth Dewar – "The Reverend Missionary to the Heathens of the Top-flat" – was now out for the first time to get in some wonderful punts, and to arouse great hopes in Ridley's future booting and conversions.

Their serious attempt to sharpen their play after the two losses was reflected in such an improvement that it was all but fantastic, resulting in one of the most striking reversals in form in the course of a season which any Ridley football team was ever to know. Their opponents had been rated a strong team, but the Ridley attack was furious, co-ordinated and relentless; as the score mounted, they refused to let up. They seemed to be inspired with a new spirit, and were so well drilled and improved in teamwork that they defeated St. Catharines Collegiate by the astonishing score of 64-0. ("The Collegiate boys were never in it.") Ridley's football team followed that glorious change with a decisive defeat inflicted on Toronto Church School. There was also an encouraging sequel. That next year's first team would have some mighty recruits was revealed in the 54-0 drubbing inflicted upon Toronto Church School seconds by Ridley's junior team. ("Next year, watch Walt Caldecott, Arthurs and Louis Cartwright.")

Perhaps the game against the Collegiate should be noted as the start of Ridley's great football tradition. From that point in the autumn of 1890, the Ridleian footballers never looked back, though some seasons were dark with defeat. It was the year when football fever first infected the entire school.

THE FUTURE CADET CORPS

THERE was one more important school activity to be given its start – Ridley's Cadet Corps or, rather her drill squads. Looked upon as an effective means of giving young Ridleians an erect carriage and an alert stride, they learned how to march with stiff, soldierly precision under the stern eye and to the parade-ground bark of Capt. Thairs. They lacked uniforms for years and real weapons, too, but they could still drill, and they did. Capt. Thairs always carried a limber silver-topped swagger stick, and on rare occasions they discovered it could sting like the Headmaster's cane, though he was so patient and controlled he was never known to lose his temper. Yet no boy took liberties with him. He was a stickler for the fitness of things, such as promptness to report – a straggler was for it! – and proper deportment on parade at all times. Ramrod-straight himself, he demanded this erectness in the boys. His order: "Chests out and beams in!" was obeyed. He would inspect the rear of the lines, and the threat of a swish of his stinging stick on a protruding behind worked like magic. It could jerk a boy erect and out of a slump as if he'd been shot. He was also not adverse to telling his awkward squads with biting scorn that the young ladies he drilled on Thursday nights in St. Catharines made better men and smarter soldiers than they did.

In time, Ridley's Cadet Corps (formally established in 1907) represented much that Ridley College held worthy and right – loyalty and unstinted devotion to the service of country and nation. Even in their first years the uniformless drill squads had some sense of that. They were acquiring a good posture, and the impression of alert smartness on and off parade, which of course indicates a disciplined youth in complete control of himself. The Headmaster's decision to establish at least the nucleus of a proper cadet corps as a natural part of the Ridley scene proved itself in creating a distinct asset from the outset. Capt. Thairs did his part well; a man utterly devoted to duty by nature, by the first Spring his organized squads had become an integral part of Ridley's routine. The boys reported to him four days a week, in age groups. To handle the School he divided it into four big squads. He then drilled them outside on Mondays and Thursdays, and in the gym on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The following year, Capt. Thairs heard the militia was being taught a new drill, but he refused to wait until instructions reached the 19th Regiment, of which he was adjutant. He went to Toronto at his own expense to watch the Queen's Own and Royal Grenadiers being put through the new paces, borrowed a drill manual, and then drilled his Ridley squads long and hard until they had mastered it. They soon knew how to form a "British square" on a single command, and even knew ceremonial formations.

The programme of the delayed Sports Day was run off in fine style, but

again there was unmistakable evidence of the need for improved coaching, serious training and more practice. The Headmaster noted it, which meant something would be done at once to advance the track-and-field sports. Again, his great lack was in coaching.

The highlight of Sports Day, 1890, Ridley's first, was naturally the crowning of the two champions. A. Vansickle won the senior championship, and G. A. Arthurs was declared junior champion.

This fascinating and long-awaited day seemed to mark the end of Ridley's first calendar year, a natural point for introspection and review; that is, if busy schoolboys took time out for such things. If they did, it is difficult to say which episodes or events were most indelible in their minds; many things had been done for the first time. The strange, uncertain school-opening day? A caning? A word of approval from an admired older boy? Four on each from a master's strap? The excitement of a fiercely fought game? Each boy would no doubt have his own privately cherished memory, but perhaps nothing remained longer in the minds of many of these original Ridleians of '89 than the uproarious battles between the Lower West Dormitory, led by Billy (W. M. H.) Dixon (who was to die of consumption in 1900) and Eastern Dormitory, whose forces were led by that clever tactician Pop (sometimes Ped) Anderson. The boys of the *Top Flat* were incurable raiders, too.

*Methought I heard the sounds of anxious strife –
Of scampering feet – of plaintive cries for life;
Methought I saw a mass of college pillows
Forever heaving, surging like the billows;
Methought I heard a shout from far behind
Of "Wing and Main, come take your stand!
"Upon us are the Topmost Flat,
"And anxious seem they for the fray;
"O, let us quite extinguish them,
"And see them run this fatal day."*

– Anonymous Ridleian

To the Headmaster the initial Prize Day in July and then the first Sports Day in October were much more than just calendar time-posts. With the Michaelmas holidays now swiftly again approaching, he saw Ridley's first calendar year's end as a time for a thorough mental review and questioning. Possessing a valuable capacity to make decisions and to act, which is not always a characteristic of the contemplative scholar, Mr. Miller also had a demanding conscience. So, during the Christmas holidays his introspection critically examined all the factors and phases, trends and events of the past twelve months. He did not dwell on the routine of school operations, but on

the influence of life at Ridley on her boys. Were the right principles being instilled? Were the right impulses and sense of purpose being absorbed? Were the right values being understood and personally adopted?

Someone, and it was probably the Headmaster himself, had already made this definition of a "Ridley Christian gentleman" a sort of Ridley adage: "A gentleman is one who will not knowingly hurt another's feelings." It was down to earth and understandable by boys, and many Ridley students never forgot it. The adage was quoted and requoted for years, and probably is still heard. It was just one of the reasons why Old Ridleians seem to escape inclusion each time there is another factional, generally a political attack in Great Britain on the English public school system, with disparaging echoes seemingly inevitable in Canada anent old-school-tie types. Far more effective in refuting any impression that stuffed-shirtism or false superiority were bred at Ridley, was the whole philosophy of education and training which the Reverend Mr. Miller was developing. It would soon be clear that stuffiness and snobbery could not exist in Ridley's atmosphere, but it was too early for the Headmaster to be sure. Only time would disclose that concentration on building character in a boy, in which there was no room for false gods, was succeeding. It would not be clear for all to see until the mark of Ridley was carried away by her products, to be revealed in the universities and, long afterward, in full manhood.

4

The Sprouting of Tradition

"It was during these early days on a rough Ridley games field that the privilege of wearing the orange and black was felt for the first time with a proud, deep meaning."

AT THE BEGINNING of 1891, there was no question in the Directors' minds that the need for Ridley had not been clearly proven, or that the new boarding school had not been safely launched, but the Headmaster of Ridley had grown cautious; he knew that one year was not enough to consider establishment secure. Too many things were still in a state of experimentation, even in school routine; the academic policy had yet to justify itself in the eyes of Ontario's university faculties, and approval might not be won for several terms, perhaps not for some years. Cautious parents were also going to take their time before giving their seal of approval.

Worse, the general public did not seem to understand the role of Ridley; the Headmaster had begun to realize that public confidence would be far more important to long-term success than his concentration on organization had permitted him to foresee. In sudden pessimism, he suspected that the great results engendered by the original enthusiasm of the Evangelical Anglicans, which had ensured the first fine roll of boys, could not be maintained. In any case, their recruiting ability had a limit and could never be enough alone to provide the required number of new students year after year.

Where would they be found? As he paced the empty school during the Christmas-New Year holiday, he supposed it might take years before Ridley would be given full public confidence.

There had always been a few skeptics among Ontario's leading Evangelicals about the wisdom of this Church of England project in St. Catharines; their doubts would also not be dispelled in a single year. They still considered it unsound to locate a boys' school so remotely from a big city that continuous income from a large number of day-boys could not be expected if the required number of boarders could not be attracted. It could be wrong not to have such a source in reserve. The Headmaster and the great majority

of the founding group had disagreed; they had the vision to foresee that it was as a boarding school that a distinctive character could be given to Ridley, and preserved. They saw this factor as the new school's greatest and most lasting asset; but Mr. Miller knew it was going to take time to prove their concept.

The boys had more faith. They came back after Christmas in blithe spirits, with the pleasure of a home-coming echoing in their gay greetings and laughter. He could only see a good omen in their bright, expectant faces; it was clear that the kneading of masters and senior and junior boys into a loyal, compact family group was doing its work. The Headmaster suddenly knew that here – in his boys – were his testimonials, his justification. Unknowing and uncaring about his nagging doubts, they banished them; the boys seemed to be telling him with a single voice of their eagerness to get on with Ridley's consolidation.

What no one foresaw in early 1891 was that the security of Ridley would be severely tested long before her roots were firmly planted. An economic threat lay ahead which would provide a test so stern that surmounting it might satisfy the last skeptic. But before that stress had to be faced, Ridley was to have two years to gain firm establishment.

THROUGHOUT January great secrecy shrouded a surprise in preparation for the boy-population of the young school. A group of five students had been bustling about very mysteriously, with some of them working late every night in Mr. Hodgins' room. Just before the end of the month the mystery was uncovered – the first issue was published of *Acta Ridleiana*, the school journal which is still recording the episodes and events, customs and way of life of the people of Ridley.

It was such a striking innovation that the immediate interest of boys and masters was captured. The date for Volume 1, Number 1 was February, 1891.

The School's first and only journal, *Acta Ridleiana*, had been christened in honour of both Bishop Ridley, the Martyr, and *Acta Diurna* – Doings of the Day – generally accepted as the world's first newspaper. *Acta Diurna* had been published in Rome during the latter part of the Republic and under the Empire, to report to Romans on their world and the world around them.

Volume 1, Number 1 was greeted with the justified enthusiasm which is due to a newly created institutional asset. It did not have quite the broad role of *Acta Diurna*, of course; it could report to the world only on the daily doings at Ridley, but to Ridleians that was of first importance in any event. The historic inaugural issue was produced by an Editorial Committee, chaired by the Rev. F. D. Hodgins, B.A., who had edited the University of Toronto songbook as Ridley's headmaster had been editing the U. of T.

Year Book. His associate editors, circulation and advertising managers were A. W. Anderson, E. M. Hooper, P. F. Kortright, G. P. MacDonald and G. Musson Jr. A. C. Kingstone was listed on the masthead as treasurer. The introductory editorial said:

“By no means least among the factors that make for the ‘ingenious arts’ in a community like ours, is the college paper. Perhaps no other single institution is able to exert the same influence upon individual minds. . . .”

To help inspire voluntary submissions, *Acta*’s editors reminded their student-readers:

“Many an eminent writer first took up his pen to compose his first article for his own college paper . . . many a poet wrote his first verses for his college paper. . . .”

It was not necessary to justify the sudden appearance of *Acta Ridleiana* on the Ridley scene, but the editors gave these sound reasons for its birth:

“The college paper is a record of the life of the community. It is the chronicle of the events that one would not willingly forget. It forms a bond of union among its readers; it cements friendships, sometimes life-long friendships, among those who are associated in its conduct.

“It is an additional tie between college and home, deepening the interest in college life by our relations and friends, and bringing us with our labours, and our enjoyments, to a nearer view of those from whom we are separated, during so large a portion of our college life.”

These profound thoughts were accompanied by a hint of crass commercialism in pointed references to circulation income and the sale of advertising space. *Acta Diurna*, the ancient namesake, had been posted in Roman squares, where those who could read called out the news for the less fortunate. The editors said this custom should not be followed by Ridleians; each boy should buy his own copy and, if possible, another to send home. Subscription rates were \$1 per year or 10¢ per copy.

A full page of staid display advertisements probably paid most of the first printing bill. Poole, the photographer, must have been incensed; his advertisement was upside down. (He probably did not demand a second free advertisement; he was Ridley’s first commercial photographer.) Boots and Shoes of Every Description, by Healey & Carlisle; T. Lee, Maker of the Best Buns; Stowell’s Lightning Liniment; C. B. & Co., college beoxzers (*sic*), football jerseys and capes, were among the local advertisements to support the first issue. With one eye to future advertising income, a frank appeal to the boys was made to patronize the right merchants. It concluded, a bit bitinglly:

"It will be noticed that several establishments refused to help us although they receive a great part of the College trade."

With such sharp attention to publishing economics, *Acta Ridleiana* could hardly fail.

The Editorial Committee planned the maiden issue so well that future editors have never changed the original pattern of the subject matter to any great degree. *Acta Ridleiana* was always to be a report on the doings at Ridley rather than a voice of the boys, though the tolerant master who was editor-in-chief or editorial adviser (with full veto power over the contents) generally permitted a few digs at Authority. The journal belonged to the boys. Masters might write the editorials and some reports, but the embryo poets and authors of Ridley contributed to all issues, using the journal as a medium for a display of their literary talents. Old Boys often supplied excellent nostalgic articles, or accounts of the world of adults, and perhaps were the most interested of all readers of the sections devoted to a record of Ridley's games and the annual report on each Prize Day.

College publications, especially university newspapers, are extremely jealous of their editorial independence, which perhaps gave rise to the occasional criticism about too much supervision by masters of the contents of *Acta Ridleiana*. The critics overlooked the fact that Ridley's journal was not concerned with freedom of the press and that its counterparts were not the university newspapers but the magazines and journals of the high schools and other independent schools, which are often annual collections of their students' essays and poetry. *Acta Ridleiana* also consistently played this role, providing a means to foster her boys' facility with the written word, but in addition it was a record of Ridley's athletic fortunes and of almost everything of importance occupying her boys. As the literary ability of teen-age boys is limited, a master's close watch and careful editing was essential, if only to ensure that the journal's literary quality reflected creditably.

The early editors-in-chief were more tolerant than those of later years. The boys on the editorial committees did not hesitate to jibe at Authority, criticize school policies, or to scold the entire school body or a team or even the Old Boys, if they seemed lukewarm in their Ridley spirit. An unwritten, even unspoken rule kept humour and personal references in good taste.

Here are sample items from early *Actas* –

Gymnasium: It would be a good idea if someone were appointed to see the different apparatus are in good working order. It was through this neglect that Cartwright Mi was hurt. The rope on one of the flying rings was loose and slipped from the ring.

Fire – Fire!: There is no possible excuse for not having those chemical fire extinguishers (glass bottles) placed in convenient positions around the building. Other colleges have them, why should not we? Take for

instance, Wycliffe. Is it because their building is more valuable than ours? Or is a divinity student's life of so much more consequence than a boy's?

Facetiae: When the Principal entered the second form class-room the other day he was greatly surprised to find that the blackboard had been slightly demolished, in so much that there was none left. When he asked what pugilist had been practising with his fists on the wall, to his great surprise no one seemed to know. This is a great mystery. Will it ever be solved?

Tennis: It is in the interest of sport that we protest the dropping of the tournament.

Corridor Talk: We are sorry to notice the gradual falling off of the attendance at the gymnasium. The only one now in it is the instructor and he is seldom there.

Such critical barbs were later not always condoned with the Reverend Mr. Miller's tolerance. *Acta Ridleiana* was viewed for only a short period as primarily an internal organ, produced for the edification and amusement of the boys in school; as the Circulation Department broadened the readership, a sharp eye had to watch for things which could be misconstrued by parent-readers, and other schools. As the journal was seen more and more as a reflection for others of the day-to-day life of Ridley, some editorial restraint on exuberant young columnists had to be imposed. They were coached toward a mature, not a schoolboy view, as the country, the School and *Acta Ridleiana* together grew more sophisticated.

Acta Ridleiana, launched so early in Ridley's history, is like a mirror: almost every change and development, for good or for ill, in both Canadian education and Canadian national life, can be glimpsed in miniature, but true reflection in its many issues. It is intriguing to observe how viewpoints of the boys and the School at any given time reflect the influences of social change and new customs in the outside world.

That the Headmaster viewed *Acta Ridleiana* as a means to help inspire boys with the urge to write and to aid generally in the instillation of the habit of good English usage, was apparent in his references to the journal in his English classes. He had the ability to read either poetry or prose with such purity of diction and impressiveness that he could always hold the rapt attention of a class of restless boys. Before long, he instituted reading contests, with no lack of contestants, all desiring to emulate his easy fluency and quiet dramatization. He never wearied in trying to coach boys in the way to catch the feeling of an author and his work, or in helping them to develop an appreciation for great literature so that they could know the delight of savouring the fine passages.

Mr. Miller's warm reading voice often made his English classes memorable. Coupled with his love for poetry, his voice could be dramatic or lyrical or

forceful as he brought words alive and gave clarity and deep meaning to obscure poetic perceptions. ("One of my most vivid memories of Ridley is Mr. Miller taking a class in literature on Tennyson's *Mort d'Arthur*," said Dr. R. S. Gurd ('93-'98) more than sixty years later. "He had one of the finest voices I have ever heard. I can still recite selections he gave us. I salute his memory.")

He could be intensely practical at the same time in impressing his English classes with the fundamentals of good writing. As an illustration, he urged their careful study of synonyms. More than half a century later, an Old Boy still recalled the emphasis Mr. Miller had used in explaining that to conclude synonymous words are identical is the mistake of the lazy writer. He would explain: "You will write freely and accurately only if you remember that synonymous words are similar, often identical in meaning, and even interchangeable, but you will only express yourself properly if you choose the right word, the one with the true shade of meaning you wish to give."

"No great writer is too lazy to find the exact word," was a favourite admonition.

THERE was the hard, clear ice on the canal in January, 1891, which only frost of at least 5 to 10 degrees below zero can make. At Toronto, the thermometer dropped to 22 degrees below during the first week in January and even the warmer Garden of Canada knew exceptionally low temperatures. To the elation of the hockey enthusiasts fast ice was not only waiting when they came back from their Michaelmas holidays, a board-sided rink had been erected in front of the School beside the canal. They raced to it, yelling: "Three cheers and a tiger for the Headmaster!"

Once more there was no competition, so they doggedly played each other all winter, managing to maintain interest among half-frozen spectators by a good schedule for the Form teams. They now suspected that hockey would be an orphan sport until the other schools were infected with the Ridley enthusiasm, but they could not know how long it would be before they would know the pleasant problem of which challenge to accept or even before Upper Canada and T.C.S. would start to play them regularly.

Despite being deprived of a chance for a great swelling-up of Ridley spirit, which was always to occur when the orange and black played a rival school in any sport, the hockey players only made token complaint about flooding the rink at night themselves, and the grumbling was astonishingly mild when they had to shovel snow for an hour after a storm to get down to the ice. Ridley boys could avoid work with an almost uncanny intuition and skill; they seemed to have more than the normal ability of boys to vanish completely on the mere hint of it. A lady once wrote to Mrs. Miller on the astonishing way in which Ridley boys could get out of sight. To her, it was a

Bishop Ridley College

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1891

1. Every boy who wishes to obtain any permission must obtain it from the master of the day and from him only.
2. Forms I and II will study every week night, except Friday, in the classroom from 6:45 to 8:15. The other forms will work in their studies, and may not on any account leave their studies or visit other studies unless they have obtained permission from the master of the day.
3. All scribbling on or cutting or disfiguring of any part of the school property is strictly forbidden.
4. No boy may leave a class-room between hours of recitation; and every boy must be in his form class-room at every recitation, whether he takes the subject then taught or not.
5. Every boy who has received an imposition must write it in the detention room between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.
6. On Friday boys may go out to spend the evening with friends if they have obtained permission from the master of the day; but on any other evening no boy may on any account go outside the building. If any are found outside after hours, i.e., after 6:45, they will be severely punished.
7. All boys may go down town on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. On other days no boy may go beyond the prescribed bounds.
8. In the evening no boy may go to his cubicle until after prayers at 9:30; and every boy in forms I, II and III must remain in his cubicle after 10; boys in form IV, V and VI after 10:30.
9. No boy may bring any eatables into his cubicle.
10. Seniors drill on Monday and Thursday; Juniors on Tuesday and Friday. Any boy misbehaving at drill may be sent to the detention room.
11. No boy may go in swimming except at authorized hours.
12. Smoking is strictly prohibited.
13. Rising-bell, 6:45; Prayers, 7:15; Breakfast, 7:30; School, 8:30; Dinner, 12:30; Tea, 6:00; Study, 6:45; Prayers, 9:30; Retiring bell, 9:45; Lights Out, 10 and 10:30.

school phenomenon. She wrote: "A crowd of Ridley boys could disappear like magic. One moment a field could be black with figures, the next there was only trampled grass to stare at you." The Headmaster may have suddenly appeared, to call: "Don't you hear the bell? Move along. Move quickly!"

Or, more likely, the whisper of some task had caused instant evaporation.

Yet they did no more than squabble a bit among themselves about who was or was not doing a fair share of shovelling on the rink. In the light of a boy's natural aversion to work, this must be accepted as incontestable evidence of their love of hockey. These hockey pioneers deserved a better fate than the monotony of always playing each other.

Then it was spring—and cricket—again, with the whole Niagara Peninsula bursting into bloom, and the soft fragrance of peach blossoms hanging everywhere, along the country lanes, beside the canal, and even among the houses of St. Catharines.

On April Fool's Day that spring a boy in knickerbockers discovered that honesty and honour could be so expensive he almost became a violent rebel against all that Ridley sought to teach. He whacked a cricket ball over the fence of the one house in the environs of the school which all young Ridleians had learned to shun. It was at the corner of Ann and Ontario streets; an irascible gentleman who detested boys lived there.

As the ball sailed over the fatal fence, the batsman and his bowler listened in trepidation, then heard the splintering tinkle of glass which spelled disaster. They could have run, but Pussy Wadsworth, who that fall would be made Ridley's youngest prefect, and the only one the School perhaps ever had who was still wearing knickerbockers, was made of stern stuff. He marched bravely to the front door and confessed to the ogre.

"I'll pay for the glass, of course, sir," he said manfully, vainly trying to stem a tirade about impudent young rascals who trample the seeds out of lawns, ruin respectable people's gardens, steal their fruit, smash their windows. . . .

"Five dollars!" the man stopped to yell. "Five dollars or I get the police. And don't call me names under your breath . . . shut up! I can hear you."

Five dollars was atrocious profiteering; the pane of glass for the small cellar window would probably cost twenty cents. But Pussy was trapped; he was so brow-beaten by the bellicose householder he failed to get the cricket-ball back, and only escaped on the promise to pay the five dollars at twenty-five cents a week—his entire weekly allowance for twenty long weeks! (The injustice was annoying the veteran lawyer sixty-five and more years later.) Pay it he did, for those twenty weeks. Each time he called with another painful instalment for the usurer, he acquired a fresh set of doubts about the good sense in all the aphorisms about truth and honesty and honour so often reiterated by Mr. Spotton, a confirmed parable-quoter. He unearthed two

cynical proverbs and, grown brave by his disillusionment, the next time Mr. Spotton intoned Cervantes' "Honesty is the best policy", Pussy asked: "Isn't there equal truth in the saying, 'An honest man is but a civil word for a fool'?"

"And, sir, what about the old proverb which says, 'Honour and profit will not keep in the same basket'?"

The class listened in high glee to the discussion, which fortunately did not grow acid or Pussy might have ruined a future as a prefect.

The record of payments for the broken window was tacked to Pussy's cubicle wall, with this caption above it –

"An honest, exceeding poor man."

– William Shakespeare

DESPITE the contrariness of the spring weather in 1891, enthusiasm for cricket began to permeate the School very early, with no less than twenty-five of the younger boys determined to make the junior XI. This was so satisfying to the Headmaster that he saw it as a long step on the road to the status for Ridley of a cricket school. Knowledge, skill and enthusiasm must spread all through such a school to provide cricket strength in depth, and he felt this was happening. The big handicap was that his boys had to be taught cricket from scratch after they had arrived; they would join Ridley with knowledge of lacrosse and baseball, but not of cricket batting and bowling. But they had caught the cricket spirit; there was so much enthusiasm for cricket even in March, especially among the younger boys, that *Acta Ridleiana* scolded them for trying to play "in two feet of slush". Said *Acta*: "They are only wasting their energies and risking bad colds. It would be far better for them and the club generally if they would consent to wait until the fine weather sets in. When the cricket season commences, they will be tired of the game, and unwilling to practise."

But they did not tire of cricket, and the Headmaster must have been impatient, too; he had matting placed in the gym to let the bowlers get started during March.

Matches for Ridley's Senior and Junior teams had been arranged for seven Saturdays, but all fell through because of weather or inability of the cricket clubs to play, except three: Welland Cricket Club, a new cricket club at Merritton and Toronto Church School, whose XI played Ridley in her first two years. ("The cancellations come hard on the boys; they have been practising hard every day.")

The following is the earliest preserved score of a Ridley cricket match. It was a glorious victory over Toronto Church School, whose XI gave Ridley a match in 1891 and 1892. (There is no mention of this XI from Toronto after this date.)

AN HISTORIC CRICKET MATCH: June 4, 1891

Toronto Church School –

	1st Innings		2nd Innings
Price	– run out 2	– c. & b. Kingstone	0
J. Roaf	– b. Kingstone 0	– b. Kingstone	0
C. Walker	– c. & b. Kingstone 3	– run out	28
T. Burnside	– b. Kingstone 5	– b. Kingstone	5
S. Scadding	– b. Kingstone 13	– b. Kingstone	6
G. Osler	– b. Kingstone 0	– b. Arthurs	0
Walter	– run out 2	– b. Arthurs	1
H. Brooke	– run out 5	– run out	4
C. Walker	– not out 1	– not out	0
Gordon	– b. Kingstone 0	– b. Kingstone	0
T. R. Wright	– b. Kingstone 2	– c. & b. Kingstone	0
Extras	11	Extras	4
	<hr/> 44		<hr/> 48

Bishop Ridley College

	1st Innings		2nd Innings
W. Stuart Jones	– b. Scadding 0	– b. Walker	9
A. C. Kingstone	– b. Scadding 14	– b. Walker	0
E. H. Anderson	– b. Scadding 3	– c. Gordon, b. Walker	4
G. P. MacDonald	– c. & b. Scadding 9	– run out	1
G. A. Arthurs	– c. & b. Scadding 24	– b. Scadding	0
H. S. Jones	– b. Scadding 0	– b. Scadding	0
L. Livingstone	– b. Scadding 0	– b. Scadding	10
A. N. MacDonald	– c. & b. Walker 0	– c. & b. Scadding	0
C. E. Lee	– c. & b. Walker 0	– c. Brooke, b. Scadding	6
D. Blaicher	– stpd. b. Walker 4	– stpd. b. Walker	11
A. A. Allan	– not out 6	– not out	9
Extras	– 3	–	9
	<hr/> 63		<hr/> 58

Totals

Toronto Church School, 92

Bishop Ridley College, 121

Ridley's chosen senior XI also played Welland and lost, but they defeated Merritton to the unrestrained joy of every aspiring cricket novice in the School. All scores were low in the two games, and as both these clubs were also new it is possible that the batting of all three teams was well below the skill they would later display.

Perhaps it was the Merritton and Toronto Church School victories, but Ridley's cricket spirit began to glow, if it did not yet fully catch fire. The Headmaster hinted that Bowbank, the cricket pro who had coached Rosedale C.C. and Upper Canada, might be retained for two months in the spring of '92, and cricket slogans and terminology began to crowd Ridleian vocabularies. Sturdy boys spoke disgustingly of a greasy crease or a wicket that was

just plain dead or along sticky-dog lines. One boy would predict how they would "hustle the enemy out at a lowly 20", while another propounded on the wisdom of taking first innings honours. Ambitious young batsmen dreamed at night of going on for the century after reaching an even 80 because, as everyone of course knows, a century is the hallmark of a first-flight batsman. (A Ridley boy would achieve that pinnacle of batting prowess in 1897.)

The healthy rivalry of enthusiastic boys in their games is an inspiring thing, and cricket was already beginning to set Ridley alight with the spirit of competition, of fierce effort, but also of fair play. The influence of cricket would take a stronger and stronger hold as the seasons wore along.

With the emergence of cricket as an established and important part of Ridley's way of life, there was official attention given to subsidiary needs. To reach the cricket grounds on Hainer's Western Hill, the canal of course had to be crossed, and the "ferry" – a little punt – was not only inconvenient and inadequate, but when over-loaded with exuberant boys could be actually dangerous. Not a few went overboard, of course, by "innocent" elbowing. When ladies came as spectators, the ferry facilities were embarrassing, for the punt would always teeter perilously at the "dock" – a plank. There was often a lot of ladylike squealing.

By stern order from the Headmaster a proper dock was constructed. A minute of a meeting of the Executive Committee on April 27, 1891, held at St. Catharines, had resolved that "Wilson be employed to build a dock for the ferry" – the punt. A floating dock went up. Unhappily, uncaring captains taking wheat boats through the canal to Montreal repeatedly wrecked the float. School authorities were so incensed that the identity of the culprit ships was recorded, if not the names of the offending skippers. The worst crushings were by the *Orient* and the *Ocean*. (The following winter it became clear that the ferry service to Western Hill's athletic field was to be a permanent headache. The ice in the spring ground up the float, tore it loose and forced complete reconstruction.)

One thing still stands at Ridley College which was the direct result of this early interest in cricket. The oldest building on the present college grounds is the cricket house, built in 1891. It is now a nondescript shed, but it has a history. It has been moved and re-moved, but has come back to something of its original purpose. It was built as a changing house at the top of a flight of steps which led in 1891 from the canal to the cricket ground on the summit of the Western Hill. That means, it was originally erected on the site now occupied by the Headmaster's house. It was later moved to a spot midway between the gym and the chapel vestry, with its back to the little gully (now filled) running between the main playing field and the hill on which Merritt House now stands. It was then relegated to its present site, where the back road leaves the grounds. If it is now just an old shed, serving as a storage place for cricket nets and other equipment, such as a grass roller and a

tractor, it once was the centre of delightful tea parties in distant Ridley summertimes.

The affairs of Ridley were now so diverse that early in 1891 the local members of the Executive Committee (sometimes three or four directors, and on occasion only two) had begun to meet weekly in St. Catharines. It permitted promptness and efficiency in handling day-to-day problems. They concerned themselves with countless things – the appointment of C. A. F. Ball and R. Fowler to be school auditors . . . how to dispose of Springbank's billiard table . . . the granting of railway fare to Orillia for the summer holidays of Lizzie Trill, the dining-room girl . . . the engaging of new masters . . . adjustment in masters' salaries . . . the appointment of instructors in drawing and carpentry . . . adjustment in student fees in unusual circumstances – and a score of similar details of school operation. The local directors were discovering even this early the enormous contribution in personal time which the affairs of Ridley would demand from them year after year. It was an honour to be appointed to Ridley's Board, but the directors (later governors) had to be dedicated men, willing to sacrifice much for Ridley. A tribute is due to their spirit of service, the quality which Ridley sought to instil in her boys. Such men were always found.

After a bad-weather March, April had been wonderful for outdoor games, and so was the first half of May. It helped cricket thrive, and at the Headmaster's urging the track-and-field men were out even in April, running for miles, getting into shape. There had been a decision to abandon October for Sports Day. Ridley's annual games would always be held in the spring hereafter, but the moment the date was set for 1891, the weather changed, and it looked as if a wrong decision had been made. Ridley's second series of track-and-field tests were held – the events they could stage, that is – in an all-day drenching rain on St. Catharines' lacrosse field. They had chosen May 22 for Sports Day as it was the start of the Queen's Birthday weekend, which meant attracting parents and other visitors to this important public day on the School calendar. Many arrived, but the rain never let up. So few went to the flooded lacrosse field that the reception facilities of the School were taxed to take care of them. The visitors stayed under shelter, receiving reports from the scene of muddy action by occasional messengers in sou'westers.

A tug-of-war was held in the sea of mud, with some mothers shrieking in horror on sight of their slime-sheathed sons returning from the struggle. One tandem canoe race was staged on the canal (officials the only spectators), but so few events were run off that it would have been incongruous to declare senior and junior champions. It was disheartening; Ridley's second Sports Day was admittedly a failure. But Don (D. B.) Macdonald, in sou'wester and rubber boots, was congratulated by the Headmaster for his efficient handling of the programme under very difficult conditions.

Then, when it was too late to proceed with cancelled contests, and the *Lakeside* was starting back to Toronto, the rain stopped. The next few days knew wonderful weather.

*When cricket's on, the rain begins;
Detention hour is sunny;
When a button's off you have no pins;
You're always short of money.*

– A Ridleian philosopher

Bad weather almost wrecked Prize Day, too, but it was the dignitaries and boys' parents who suffered; they experienced such a stormy lake crossing on the trip from Toronto that many were seasick, with some really frightened, and at least one mother vowing she would never step foot aboard a boat again. This was upsetting to the Headmaster and the Board who were trying hard to make the new school's public days pleasant as well as impressive. The directors had done their part in helping to encourage a large turnout of visitors from Toronto by subsidizing (we suspect) the boat fare. It could be announced in advance that: "The fare to be charged by the S.S. *Lakeside* on Friday next is to be \$1 for a return ticket." The steamship company operating the *Lakeside* was not given to such generosity without a subsidy; the lowest excursion rate was \$1.30.

The low fare was high enough in the opinion of the passengers. The *Toronto Mail* reported in Victorian phrases: "Many visitors came over from Toronto by the steamer *Lakeside* and were much tossed about by the troubled waters." The report was an understatement; it had been the roughest day on the lake of the year – so rough that Ridley's visitors in a body refused to go back aboard to return home. They all went back to Toronto by train.

Julian Street, a boy who was destined to become a noted American author, was inspired to pen this epic about the lake crossing on a stormy day –

*A wet deck and a rolling sea
and a wind that follows fast,
And blows the black and heavy smoke
about the forward mast.
About the forward mast, my boys
while like the eagle free,
The rolling "Lakeside" bounds and leaves
the port upon her lee
(and also contributions small
from mortals to the sea).*

– Julian Street

The platform for the formal proceedings on Ridley's second annual Prize Day was decidedly crowded. Draped in orange and black bunting, the raised platform had been erected under Ridley's trees and could be used because the rain and gale had slackened and the sun had come out hot and strong. It was not raining, just blowing a little by 2 p.m. In addition to the Headmaster and Mr. Williams, the platform held President Merritt, the Hon. S. H. Blake, Q.C., the Reverend A. H. Baldwin (later bishop); the Reverend W. J. Armitage (later archdeacon); Mr. Stapleton Caldecott; Dr. N. W. Hoyles (president of Wycliffe College); Mr. J. K. Macdonald; His Honour Judge Senkler, His Honour Judge Benson and so many others that it was apparent the director-founders had turned out in force. Some had refused lunch and still looked ill from the rough lake crossing.

The patience of both boys and parents must have been sorely tried; many of those on the crowded platform delivered addresses, even some who were still feeling the effects of *mal de mer*.

However, all felt better next day, especially the members of the Board, who were elated that Ridley was given excellent publicity in the Toronto newspapers.

The following appeared in the Toronto *Empire*, 5 July, 1892 –

AT THE RUGBY OF CANADA

Otherwise Bishop Ridley College

St. Catharines, July 4 – The annual closing exercises of Bishop Ridley College were held today. . . . During the year just completed a total of 100 boys had been admitted to the college at different times. . . . The largest attendance at any one time was 92.

The Reverend James Ardill spoke. He saw no reason why Ridley should not become the Rugby of Canada, and Mr. Miller the Arnold of the new Rugby.

Professor Hutton of Toronto University, in presenting some of the Greek prizes, complimented the Headmaster on the advantages of such study of the classics.

"Owing to the present provincial legislation prohibiting the inclusion of Greek in the pass matriculation curriculum, the study of the dead language is in danger of falling into neglect," he said.

ORIGIN OF THE MANLINESS MEDAL

AMID the oratory on Prize Day, the boys had heard two things of great interest, though they could not know they were actually historic announcements, of momentous and lasting importance to Ridley, its growth and future character. Mr. Merritt announced his intention to award the

President's Gold Medal for Scholastic Proficiency, which would denote the Head Boy of the School, scholastically; and Ridley Director, the Hon. S. H. Blake, declared his intention to award a gold medal to the boy who was voted by the boys of the school to possess such outstanding character and integrity that he was representative of the Ridley ideal of true manliness.

Thus was forecast on July 3, 1891, the establishment of the award which was to become at once the most coveted accolade within reach of a Ridley boy and which was to wield a peculiarly strong influence on the very character of Ridley and on the high ideals and principles it was to foster so faithfully through all the years ahead.

To this historian, the Gold Medal for True Manliness appears to have had more influence in preserving those ideals than probably any other single factor – at least any that is discernible among a combination of many fine influences. Several elements have been at work to give the award this remarkable value. It was originally decreed that it would be bestowed by the vote of the boys, with the staff excluded, a wise principle which has been faithfully followed. This gave it immediate importance in the eyes of the boys, of course, but it was from the great integrity with which they cast their vote year after year that the prestige of the award has been a cumulative thing. It was never to be awarded perfunctorily. An athlete could win it, but not for prowess in sport alone, even if an average schoolboy is inclined to admire brawn over brains. A popular boy might win it, but it was never bestowed just for popularity. A fine scholar could win it, but it was never voted for scholarship alone. A well-developed intellect was an essential element, but there were greater boy-characteristics. That a boy came from a wealthy family, or one with important social standing, mattered not a whit and could indeed work against a possible recipient. There were spells in the next 65 years when the vote seemed to be that of a popularity contest, but this wrong conception was generally soon righted.

Occasionally during the winter of 1891-2, and then repeatedly before the boys would hold their first vote prior to Prize Day of 1892, the Headmaster went the rounds of the classrooms, explaining just what the award meant and must always mean. He sensed that if the honour was properly understood, and its meaning correctly interpreted in these early Ridley years, it could take on unique status and distinction, which could be held safe in the future.

He told the boys that the award would be just as great as Ridley made it. They paid heed when he said that in arriving at their choice they must make their own personal study of character. Kindliness and inherent decency; moral courage; leadership; tolerance; an incorruptible sense of honour and honesty, and thus, of course, of fair play – all these were elements of character which were important in casting their vote. The boys at once began to

take the responsibility of their vote with commendable seriousness. It is an attitude which has gone on and on. A lobbyist would be so scorned he would at once end all chance for his candidate. It just "wasn't done". No master would dare attempt to influence the young voters. The boys seldom if ever have discussed among themselves the name of the boy they were considering, except perhaps with their closest friends. Even today discussion is rare. Because the vote has been taken with integrity, the unique distinction of each annual award has been preserved year after year. The inspiration of the Gold Medal for True Manliness has been great and lasting, so great that it has become the symbol of Ridley's philosophy for training boys for manhood.

Although the first to sponsor the award was Founder and Director, the Hon. S. H. Blake, Q.C., the inspiration for it is probably rightly credited to J. Herbert Mason who had endowed a similar award for Upper Canada College in 1887, with the first presentation made in 1888. In a letter to Principal George Dickson of Upper Canada dated October 3, 1888, Mr. Mason gave a detailed explanation of how the inspiration came to him – through a visit to the H.M.S. *Worcester*, the old wooden warship which was now a Mercantile Marine training ship, anchored in the Thames. Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, presented a medal annually to the boy who was voted by his boy shipmates to possess the same high qualities of character demanded by Ridley's medal for manliness. Mr. Mason was so impressed with its influence that he endowed the one for Upper Canada College in memory of his late son, Frederic W. Mason, a former U.C.C. student. (Please see Appendix A-a for the Mason letter to Upper Canada.)

As Directors Blake and Mason knew each other well and had worked together for both Wycliffe and Ridley, it is altogether likely that the Hon. Mr. Blake originated Ridley's manliness medal at the suggestion of Mr. Mason. After 1902, the Blake Gold Medal for Manliness became the Mason medal. In his 1903 indenture endowing it, and also the Mason Gold Medal for General Proficiency open to the boys in "the highest form" of the Lower School, Mr. Mason set out the terms of reference for each. He defined the qualifications for the manliness medal in this way –

- Cheerful submission to authority.
- Self-respect and independence of character.
- Readiness to forgive offences.
- Desire to conciliate differences with others.
- Moral courage and unflinching truthfulness.

These precepts had slightly amended those which were now appearing on the award, but the intent was identical. ("No teacher's pet was ever contemplated. Headmaster Miller's serious attitude and profound words about the medal to the forms were always very impressive. We were all pretty serious about

it anyway.” – Col. D. H. C. Mason, who won the Blake Gold Medal for Manliness in 1901.) While specifically stating in the 1903 indenture that the School could make new regulations at any time respecting the awards, Mr. Mason incorporated the following in the document regarding the voting procedure for the Mason Gold Medal –

The Principal and the masters of the Upper School shall select in June of each year not less than three or more than six of the boys of the Upper School whom they consider to possess the qualities for which the medal is given; none of whom shall have previously received the Upper School medal. The Principal then shall submit those names to the boys who shall be assembled for the purpose and each boy who has been a member of the Upper School for six months previously, shall then and there vote by ballot for one of the boys selected for such medal.

In case no one of the boys receives fifty per cent of the total number of votes for the medal, then the boy who received the smallest number shall be struck off and another ballot taken, the award to be made to the one who receives the highest number of votes being not less than the proportion of votes before mentioned above.

Although nominations were made by the Reverend Mr. Miller and Mr. Williams in the Nineties, soon after 1903 even the nomination method was abandoned, leaving the selection entirely up to the boys. Because prefects exemplify the qualities of character demanded for a winner of the manliness medal, the aspirants each year automatically nominated themselves; that is, the votes of the boys were soon so concentrated on prefects that without plan or intention all members of the prefect body were prospective candidates. This is so today.

Mr. Mason later endowed a somewhat similar annual award for Havergal College.

That the boys of Ridley had not been oblivious to the world around them is apparent in the spontaneous action of a prefect when the sad news reached the College of the death of Sir John A. Macdonald, and the end of a fascinating Canadian political era. It was late on Saturday night but the prefect at once tolled the school bell. (“This was one of the earliest intimations of the news given to the townspeople. Some of the more ardent admirers of the dead Premier interviewed the Mayor just before midnight and, having obtained his consent, also tolled the town bell for about half an hour. . . .”)

That Ridley now felt like home to many boys was illustrated by the reluctance of several to depart for the summer vacation. One wrote his father: “I prefer to stay at Ridley; it is just like a summer hotel, with all the water sports you could ask.” He was also the keeper during the holidays of the pet menagerie in the basement – The Nut House. His summer charges were mostly white rats and rabbits, because an interesting fox cub, several half-

tame crows, and three pet snakes had been set free before the boys went home. The fox had been released on order from a boy's father, a judge, who recalled in a bit of a panic that a former governor-general had died from a fox bite. Several Ridley boys invariably had a tame crow in the spring. The canal area of the Niagara Peninsula was thick with fruit-loving crows, and each spring the boys went crow-nesting, in the midst of a deafening cawing chorus. "We only took one fledgling from a nest, which is all we could handle on a swaying tree top with the parent crows after our eyes," recalled Pussy Wadsworth. "We would tether them under the canal bank, and after feeding them on earthworms for a few days, they became quite tame. They gave us a sort of cupboard love."

The boys came noisily back from their holidays with football enthusiasm at a peak. Their mood set the stage for the start of the U.C.C.-Ridley and T.C.S.-Ridley football rivalry which became a tradition. It is still an inspiring influence, and its start now makes the football season of 1891 historically notable.

First, however, the football fever infecting the School was illustrated by a mass exodus on October 3, with virtually the entire school crossing the lake to Toronto to see the College play the renowned *Canadians* in the first match of the year. As reported in *Acta* –

"About 8 o'clock Saturday morning nearly sixty of the college boys boarded the steamer *Lakeside*, bound for Toronto. It was a perfect day for a sail, there being no wind and just cool enough to be pleasant. At Port Dalhousie the inhabitants were aroused from their usual drowsiness by the college cry, R-I-D-L-E-Y! R-I-D-L-E-Y!

"Songs were the order of the day and some choice selections were given by Messrs. Barry, Griffith and Isaacs; Barry's singing of *The Irish Jubilee* bringing down the entire house – I mean boat.

"We arrived in Toronto and the team was taken to the Palmer House for dinner, the other boys going to their homes."

Ridley was down 9-6 at half-time, and lost 15-6, with Dewar (touchdown), Ryckman (convert), Kingstone and Lee cited for their fine play. It was actually an excellent showing against a strong, experienced team, but to the boys the loss was a terrible letdown. A silent boat crossed the lake for home that night; Ridley was finding it hard to accept defeat graciously.

At the following "indignation meeting" of the football club, with Mr. Steen presiding, the matters of more practice and player fitness were subjects of hot debate. ("About the hardest thing imaginable is to get the team out for a run at six in the morning.") Interference with team practice caused by repeated detentions was brought up, but the protest found the delinquents getting small sympathy; even the *Acta* reporter was critical: "This state of affairs happens nearly every day, and notably diminishes the number at

practice. . . . Is it not possible the boys could try to behave themselves and study a little harder for the sake of football?"

Disappointment in the opening set-back was sharp because of their high hopes; they had been inspired by the arrival at Ridley of a new assistant English master: G. B. McClean, B.A., a very recent fine Varsity athlete. He had been noted for his punting and the drop-kicking of Ryckman, Peters, Anderson and Charlie Macdonald had at once improved through his example. Mr. McClean would help, but they still seriously needed an experienced coach.

Ridley played five additional football games in the 1891 season, and if only three of the six were won against three losses, it became clear that earnest training had so improved team-play that the footballers of Ridley College should give a creditable account of themselves from now forward. Against Upper Canada they lost 10-6, but were far from disgraced, and there was glorious compensation in a 7-5 Ridley victory over Trinity College School at Rosedale, with at least half the School on the side-lines to cheer them on. Ryckman and Dewar played magnificent games.

The boys did not realize it, but these were historic games, regardless of the winner or loser. They launched the immensely valuable inter-school football rivalry which would be continued as the Little Big Four after 1900.

The team which represented Ridley lined up as follows (with only occasional changes):

Back

A. W. Anderson

Half-backs

Mr. McClean

A. C. Kingstone

Quarter

E. W. Symmes

Forwards

F. Perry

C. E. Lee

Wings

A. Arthurs

M. Baldwin

K. F. Dewar

W. Evans

C. Hooper

C. S. MacDonald

H. J. Peters

Dewar was noted for his repeated touchdowns, Kingstone and Ryckman for the consistent high calibre of their game, McClean for his accurate punting and goal conversions.

The Ridley football captain of 1891 was Socker (Courtney) Kingstone, later the Honourable Mr. Justice Kingstone of the Supreme Court of Ontario, and long a vice-president of Ridley College. In his last game of the season on Ridley's campus, he injured a leg so seriously he went home to Toronto a stretcher-case, but quickly recovered, despite another accident which horrified Ridley when the boys heard of it. As they were taking Socker off the train, the attendants dropped his stretcher, dumping the injured footballer to the plank platform. ("He was mad, not hurt!")

Still one more historic event took place to make the 1891 football season even more memorable. Ridley was only an infant of two, yet there were already enough former students to create a football team to play the School. It was the first Old Boys' game – and the start of still another Ridley athletic tradition. Among them were several of Ridley's best cricketers, as well as good footballers. The fifteen arrived noisily the night before by train, and were so enthusiastically acclaimed by the boys of all forms and ages that it was obvious such visits would always be inspiring interludes in the life of Ridley. The Present roundly defeated the Past, 34-2.

If some of the Old Boys had only left in July, this can still justly be considered the first Old Boys' Week-end in the history of Ridley. The Old Boys' team was: *Back*: E. H. Anderson; *Half-backs*: W. Millichamp; H. K. and L. Livingstone; *Quarter*: G. Wallbridge; *Wings*: H. Brough, G. Musson, H. S. Jones, H. Dixon and A. MacDonald; *Forwards*: D. B. Macdonald. H. Cronyn and A. W. Taylor.

Although Ridley's footballers closed the season on a note of high promise, it was unhappily illusory; they were drubbed unmercifully in 1892 by losing through graduation the nucleus they had in '91 of a great future team.

There was another exciting athletic feature that third autumn – a cross-country run. It reflected both the Headmaster's search for annual Ridley events which might become a school tradition, and also his determination to improve track-and-field sports. The masters entered wholeheartedly into the effort to make the race important; they provided a handsome cup for the senior winner, and President Merritt promised a similar trophy for the first junior to finish, the moment he heard of it. But it is doubtful if even the Headmaster envisioned the long succession of cross-country runs which this first run inspired. None foresaw that the day would come when more than 200 boys would regularly go flooding across a muddy November countryside.

It was raced over four and a half miles of a rough, hilly course, all in open country. The gun went for the pack at 3 p.m. – nine seniors, ten juniors – with the juniors given a one-minute start.

It is all built up now, but the following traces the country traversed in 1891 by the cross-country runners, and later on by the pack following the paper scent in hare-and-hounds (an event which failed to become traditional): The runners went along the canal, past Norris Mill, over the St. Paul Street bridge, with the leaders, Macdonald, Kingstone and Evans, beginning to overhaul the junior stragglers going up the next hill. ("My stars! That hill at The Twelve was a stunner!") Then along the stone road, over the fence, across Mr. Merritt's farm, through a wood and into the stretch. As they burst out of the woods, Hooper had joined the three early senior leaders, and they could be seen in the distance coming across the fields to Lock 2 in a bunch.

MacKedie, Fisher, Marks and Carter were leading the juniors, as their route broke away from the seniors' course. They took the tow path, but the

seniors had to follow the railway, then go through "woods, ravines, ploughed fields and all sorts of unholy ground". Coming up from the railway station there was a choice for the seniors of two routes: Charles Lee went over the bridge, but the others went down into the cutting, which won for Ching Wah. Despite a brave sprint at the end, they could not cut down the lead the swift Lee had gained. Results: (Seniors) C. S. Lee, first; W. B. Evans, second; A. C. Kingstone, third. (Juniors) R. B. MacKedie, first; E. Marks, second; E. P. Fisher, third.

The plan had been to hold a series of cross-country runs, with the first boy to win twice in his division to take the cup. Unfortunately, when the second race was run on November 12, both the senior and junior winners of the first run (Lee and McKedie) were on the sick-list. The second pair of winners were the consistent Evans and Marks, who had each finished second on November 5. Bad weather then called off cross-country running for the year, and mystery still shrouds the final disposal of the two cups.

Despite this somewhat confused finish, the first run had been held of an event which became something more than an established Ridley tradition; the Ridley Cross-Country Run became an institution.

Bishop Ridley College

MASTERS' DUTIES

— 1892 —

1. All the masters are expected to take an active interest in the boys' games.
2. The master on duty is always to take the class-room which has the shortest time for night-work.
3. Arrangements must be made for keeping boys out of dormitories in the afternoon.
4. Each master is required to inspect the portions of the building under his care at least once a week.
5. Every master is expected to be present at morning and evening prayer.
6. Every master is expected to dine with the boys.
7. The master on duty in the dining-room is required to give careful attention to the boys' manners at table.
8. The master on duty on Sunday is to enter in a book the names of those absent from Church, and the names of those attending other churches than their own, and the names of the churches so attended.
9. The master on duty is to see that the dressing bells, before meals, are attended to, and that there is order in the wash room.

THE MASTERS IN TEAM SPORTS

UNTIL Half-back McClean's arrival, only Cricketer Miller of the academic staff had been confirming the School's prospectus which directly promised: "Masters will take part in games." The Headmaster believed that masters should take an athletic as well as a scholastic role if they could; he felt their presence on the playing field aided master-student relationship, added to institutional cohesion, and demonstrated to the boys that scholarship and athletic prowess could be linked. An athletic master at once had a special status with the boys; in Mr. McClean's case there was hero-worship from the footballers. Through no fault of their own, there were always respected masters at Ridley who were simply not athletic. This was the case with Mr. Cody, Mr. Hodgins and Mr. Steen; they must have been relieved when the School's stated policy was amended to say that masters were only expected to take part in games.

The cricketers in the spring were as elated as the footballers; arriving with Mr. McClean in September had been H. G. Williams, B.A. (London University), a young Englishman who was a fine cricketer and who, from now forward, would support the Headmaster in adding great strength to Ridley's XI. He had taken the mathematics post, replacing Mr. Spotton who had left in July. The Headmaster may have sensed it, but others could not yet know that in Mr. Williams a personality had arrived on the college scene who would remain so long, and win such abiding affection, that he was destined to become one of Ridley's most honoured living legends.

Ridley was fortunate; it now had three masters whose presence on the playing field would be of great help through these difficult formative years.

The deepening mutual regard between masters and boys was illustrated on the night of December 6. It was Mr. Cody's birthday. The boys knew it, in the mysterious way that boys come to discover what they want to discover. They decided to stage a birthday serenade in the dead of night. Chosen boys went the rounds, rousing the *Top Flat*, then they suddenly burst into his room, singing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow". What pleased Mr. Cody most was an address read to him which had a decidedly classical flavour. He matched it with a classical reply, concluding with: "*Pax Vobiscum.*" They took the hint and retired, cheering.

This seemed such a good idea they made a habit of it; a midnight serenade of a master on his birthday became a Ridley custom for a few years, then was apparently forgotten.

It had been a good year, 1891. At its opening, attendance had risen to ninety-five boarding students, plus three day-boys from St. Catharines. This was a good augur; Ridley was again close to the Headmaster's standing target of the century mark. Also, several unsolicited letters from grateful

parents arrived just after the holidays, warm with praise for the good influence which Ridley was obviously having on their sons. It was gratifying; this meant that Ridley was on the right track in its moulding of boys into men.

There was another satisfaction for the Board and the Headmaster. The attendance growth, and the rapid way in which operations had been stabilized, meant they could feel satisfied that the coming year could mark in school history, the point where the firm establishment of Ridley had been achieved. Still more important in the Headmaster's eyes was the feeling that school spirit was already beginning to well up. A Ridley cricket tradition seemed to be safely in the making; the boys had felt football fever for two seasons and obviously had been captured by it. Their cheers were ringing of pride in Ridley. Most significant of all was the promise of the gold medal for manliness; to the Headmaster in 1891-2 this award appeared to be a God-sent inspiration. Time confirmed his feeling.

He wondered anxiously if a distinct school character was yet discernible. Perhaps not, but a score of things had been already done for the first time which could become Ridley custom, and school life had been refined, broadened and extended, both academically and in student and master association. It would not be long; many budding traditions had already sprouted to link with Ridley's philosophy in the creation of the institutional character he so deeply desired.



BISHOP RIDLEY COLLEGE CRICKET CLUB (1891)

The 1891 Team with Spares (l. to r. front): A. Alexander; A. A. Allan; G. B. Stewart-Jones.
Centre row (l. to r.): H. K. Livingston; A. W. Anderson; the Reverend J. O. Miller; H. S. Jones.
Standing at rear (l. to r.): G. P. MacDonald; G. A. Arthurs; C. S. MacDonald; C. E. Lee;
A. C. Kingstone and A. N. MacDonald.

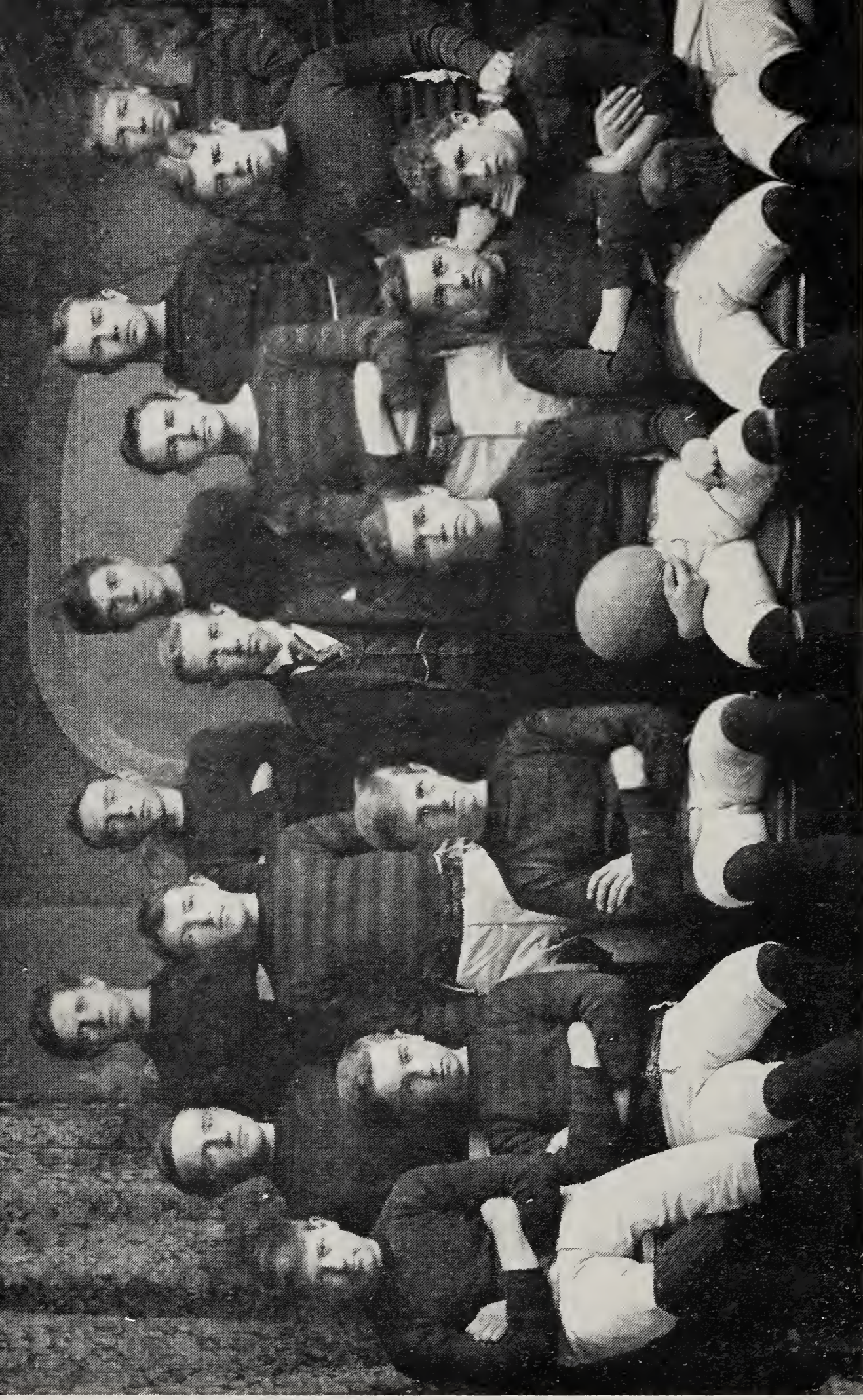
1889

Ridley's

First

Football

Colours



BISHOP RIDLEY COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAM, 1889

Wearing orange and black sweaters are (front, l. to r.): E. W. Symmes; H. Peters; Charlie Lee; A. C. Kingstone, captain (later Mr. Justice); Frank Perry and A. N. MacDonald. *(Centre, l. to r.):* H. S. Jones; P. F. Kortwright; W. A. Cundle; D. Bruce Macdonald; G. P. MacDonald. *(Back Row, l. to r.):* W. G. Wood; A. W. Anderson; K. F. Dewar; George Musson and G. Wallbridge

5

Consolidation

“The principal of a famous English school was once described as half-clucking hen and half-ogre with a stinging rod, and the headmaster of a boys’ boarding school must fall somewhere between the two. To some boys at times the Headmaster of Ridley could be both. . . .”

SPRING OF '92 came to St. Catharines well before there was warm weather across the lake, but if bright suns ruined the ice very early on their canal-side rink for the hockey players, big plans were afoot for a lot of other things. They were eager to pull out the canoes, to get on a cricket pitch, and the explorers were already into the woods and far up the canal. During January, the Headmaster had been taken aback with a considerable jolt by the discovery that the boys had been up the canal all winter long. Not only that, there was word of one small boy who had gone adventuring in the dead of night – almost every night!

This was despite a stern standing order which forbade the boys to go outside the building after 6.45 p.m. without permission from the Master-of-the-Day “on penalty of severe punishment”. But such a rule is only to be broken by a lad intent on an exciting nocturnal enterprise, especially by one who had discovered how to work the catch from the outside of one of Shaky’s basement windows to boot. He could not only escape, he could get back again even if Shaky fastened the catch while he was abroad in the winter night.

Perhaps his head was filled with the daring of the *coureurs de bois* on their lonely trails, or he was being another Champlain or La Vérendrye. Or else he dreamed of becoming a Hudson’s Bay factor by starting as a lone-hawk trapper. He was equipped with one trap and a pair of snowshoes, which he seldom used but carried anyway, as they seemed proper equipment for a frontiersman.

The tale of his winters’ adventurings was not known until some time later. They had begun the winter before. On the first night, he had concealed his

trap with the cunning of a Fenimore Cooper Mohawk under the overhang of the frozen canal bank, where a creek came into it. The next night, after much trouble bundling up against a blizzard and then escaping undetected through his basement window, he was back on his trap-line.

His excitement on this return excursion was no doubt tremendous; *he had trapped a muskrat!*

He kept catching them all winter. Then he made a mistake; he boasted of his trapping prowess, after succumbing to the boys' intense curiosity about his skin-boards, hidden in the basement, and covered with long soft fur, very much like the fur of the otter. At the next muskrat-time (before the freeze-up of 1891-2), half the school seemed ready to turn trapper, too. The boys had soon discovered for themselves that muskrats were thick along the canal and the streams running into it. One was even caught running across the thin ice of the canal on the first morning they had returned from their Christmas holidays.

At first, the boys only thought the muskrat skins might make nice gauntlets, but when fifteen muskrats had been caught along the tow-path by January 1, they saw this could be a business with real money possibilities. A Ridley trapping industry jumped into existence overnight. Among the fur companies hastily formed was "The Welland Canal Fur Company (Unlimited)", with G. P. Macdonald ('90) as president, and with several silent partners, including Monty Hooper ('89). They were shareholders but did no work because they put up the cost for four traps at thirty-five cents each. (Dec. 2, 1891: "Company got two muskrats down at the Islands. A third chewed its foot off and got away.") Another enterprising company of adventurers out for pelts was the "Societas Venatoria Trium Carolorum" or "The Hunting Society of the Three Charles" – "Ching Wah" Charlie Lee ('89), Charlie Hooper ('91) and Charlie Merritt ('90). (*Postscript*: The entrance years are noted of these boys; in most references to Old Boys after 1910 their full term follows their names.)

Nigger (sometimes The Ethiopian) Darrell and Pussy Wadsworth had adjoining cubicles (Home of the Weary and Oppressed) and were trapping partners. An iron drain-pipe ran down from their window, which meant a convenient nocturnal exit, but the trouble was to get back into the school undetected. They went out before daylight and were sometimes so cold all the muskrats in Lincoln County were not worth it, but they kept on. They even contrived a way to drown their catch with humane speed; they attached a stone to the trap to carry the muskrat into deep water the moment the trap was sprung.

A host of "independents" were also prowling the canal "wilderness" in the search for fur. They preferred sneaking out a loose window in the prayer hall to trapping in daylight, but Clover Allen, Links Alexander and Esquimau Perry were not trappers long. They were trapped themselves when someone

locked the windows while they were abroad. Despite such risks and set-backs for the trapping industry, there often seemed to be more trappers than muskrats, and because all locations looked alike under a fall of new snow there were notable battles over trap ownership, especially if a muskrat was involved.

Ridley's trappers treated their skins with salt and alum, which cost almost as much as the twenty-five cents they were paid per pelt by the local furrier, but the boys ignored such economics. They adroitly shaped shingles for skinboards, then hung their pelts in their room to "cure". ("The stench was terrible. How they let us get away with it I can't imagine.") The Ethiopian and Pussy knew how to get away with things; they also had a pet snake in a trunk and two white rats in the bureau. (Pussy claimed to have come by his love of frontier activities by inheritance; his great-grandfather, Thomas Ridout, had been captured by Shawanese Indians and ransomed at Detroit a century earlier.)

The burgeoning fur-trapping industry narrowly escaped being ordered to close its books and get out of business on the winter morning in '92 when a frightened yell for help echoed down the canal. The rushing rescuer was the Headmaster who had been out for an early walk. He pulled a boy from the icy water of the canal just in time; he had ventured on a floating cake of ice; it tipped, and threw him in. A scare such as this was generally enough to inspire new, stern precautions about the danger of playing on the canal, and as the fur-trappers had been operating illegally, in bare-faced defiance of school regulations, drastic measures were expected. However, action was too late; the fur companies were soon all in voluntary bankruptcy through scarcity of muskrats. The pioneer fur-trapper should have continued his nocturnal operations in secret; hardly a muskrat could now be found.

But spring brought young explorers and frontiersmen a new enterprise. The lock-keepers on the Old Welland Canal began to drain off its fourteen feet of water at frequent intervals, which exposed its oozy, blue-clay bed to the fascinated eyes of the Ridley boys. You might find almost anything. The lake gulls were finding lots of fish trapped in pools and were gorging themselves, and the boys were intensely curious about other things which might be discovered in the muck of the canal bottom. Unhappily, the drainage operation seemed to occur on Sundays, with the boys dressed in their best. That high-smelling mud was to be no barrier to exploration was apparent on the first warm Sunday the slimy canal bottom was bared. The sharp-eyed Pussy Wadsworth spotted a strange heaving and stirring in a shallow pool of muddy water in a declivity in the mire, in the centre of the canal. Something was struggling to escape – something huge, too.

"Come on!" yelled Pussy, and led two neatly dressed companions in Christy hats down the bank and into the mud of the canal bottom. They

splashed and waded forward excitedly, eager to examine the strange subterranean commotion.

"Thar she blows – a whale!" yelled Pussy, as a huge brown scaly back heaved above the water. The racing mud-splashed trio reached it in a dead-heat. It was a fish all right, one that was so big they were scared of it,

"Look out! It's a shark!" yelled a boy as the tail of the fish gave a frantic lash.

It was not a shark; it was a 78-pound, 6-foot sturgeon, trapped by the recession of the water within the city limits.

The effort to capture the fish alive was soon abandoned, but not before three Christy hats were trampled out of sight in the bottom of the pool, and the black Sunday jackets of all three boys had become a slippery sheath of dirty mud. The attempt to embrace the lashing fish, and to lift it out of the pool had been a mistake; they were a horrible mess. They finally stunned the huge sturgeon (not yet identified) by a blow on the head from a water-logged fence rail they had pried from the bottom. The job of hauling the great fish to the side of the canal, then up the slippery slope to the tow-path, was a Herculean performance for three small boys, but they made it, though they were as tired as they were unrecognizable.

Now to get their find home. Their resource still did not fail them: by hooking the gills of the great fish to wire on the fence rail, all three started to tote their wonderful prize home, the fish hanging from the rail. What for? They didn't know, except that the boys had to see such a fantastic trophy as this. They lugged it from Lock 2 along Welland Avenue, three feet of fish trailing on the ground. A flock of kids looking awestruck were soon following, and a man in tweeds exclaimed admiringly: "What a monster!"

"It's a fish!" corrected Pussy, glad to rest a minute.

"Probably a she-fish going upstream to spawn," said the man. "If so, you'll be rich by selling the caviare."

They had heard the word caviare, but weren't sure what it was, and hadn't the foggiest that this indicated they had a sturgeon. That remark about money sounded good; they plodded on.

The reception for the weary trio at Springbank's front door was mixed. The boys were properly astonished but Authority in mortar-board and gown took one look at the grimy trophy-bearers and said: "What is this filthy thing?"

"Who brought it here?" he demanded, as if he couldn't tell. "Bury it at once," he ordered.

"But, sir, a man said it was worth a lot of money."

"Bury it, bury it."

"But, sir . . ."

"Bury it," he said.

So they buried their fish – 78 pounds of edible sturgeon. They knew the

weight because they had gone the back way to get at the kitchen scale. They were so bitterly disappointed and tired, that the hole for the burial was naturally a bit shallow, so Ridley could smell their fish for days. They probably felt it served the School right.

There was a sequel. After church the following Sunday, the same trio went back to the canal, looking for a muskrat, a groundhog, a heron, or even another useless sturgeon. This time they found a snapping turtle of world record size . . . well, at least it was the biggest they had ever seen. They didn't get so muddy on this adventure; they found the giant turtle at the top of the bank above the tow-path, busily burying eggs in the light, sandy soil. They knew what to do, because Robinson Crusoe had done it; they flipped the turtle on its back using a pair of heavy sticks for leverage. It was helpless, but there was nothing meek about this trophy; the turtle's beak slashed at them ferociously. What to do now? An abandoned washboiler was the answer, but it required half an hour of hard work to get the turtle into it – sideways – because she was far too wide to go in any other way. She was also a fighting turtle, constantly snapping. They might never have made it if Pussy had not tried giving her a stick to chew.

After their greeting with the sturgeon, they were careful this time; they covered the turtle with a jacket, and tried to pretend washboilers were carried around by Ridley boys every day. They were a long way from home, on the wrong side of the canal, but a messenger sent ahead had a large reception committee waiting near Springbank's back door for this second weary arrival with a trophy from the canal. They let each boy have a ride on the turtle's back, then they hid the turtle in its boiler under Springbank's side verandah for the night.

They were out before breakfast – for another disappointment. Turtle and boiler both were gone. The strange disappearance was never solved. Turtle soup did not appear on the School's menu, and for days they spied on the masters in case they were having turtle soup on the side. They also watched Tommy the cabman's kitchen, but found nothing to explain the mystery.

AN attempt was made that spring by the baseball players to have the American game organized as a serious Ridley sport, sharing the School spotlight on cricket and football. Such attempts would recur, but this one in the spring of 1892 had a chance to succeed, though it was slim. Somehow, the baseball enthusiasts contrived to have a challenge accepted for a game against St. Catharines Collegiate. They were so urgent about it that the Headmaster made it tacitly official, even if he was surprised and privately opposed. He was on hand as chief rooter when a big school crowd turned out for the game on St. Catharines' fine lacrosse field.

It was exciting, at least in the final innings. Ridley scored eight runs in the

ninth, but still lost 13 to 12. The Ridley nine were Peters, p, Blaicher, c, Allan, ss, Symmes, 3b, Arthurs, 2b, Alexander, 1b, and outfielders, Denison, Elwood and Wade.

Even this successful start failed to make baseball a serious rival to cricket, and from this point it seems to have been accepted that baseball would remain an occasional recreation, but no more. (Eventually baseball was virtually outlawed as it was considered harmful to cricket technique.) The policy originally set which limited the number of Ridley games was now confirmed in the Headmaster's mind. He was quite certain now that Ridley's small student roll was going to force concentration on only two or three sports if the School was to hold her own in inter-school competition. Behind this, too, was the firm conviction that British cricket, not American baseball, was the game which should be an integral part of the School character desired for Ridley. The Board and the Headmaster were so unanimously in favour of this that neither baseball, lacrosse nor soccer ever had much chance at any time to rival the importance of cricket in the life of the School. The baseballers were easy to circumvent; their proposals for baseball leagues of form teams were somehow always met with plausible excuses to turn them down.

Hopes would be high before many a Ridley cricket season to come, but great expectations for cricket victories were perhaps never more inspiring than prior to the cricket season of 1892. The whole School was filled with excited anticipation. Didn't they have the new master, Mr. Williams, a really fine bat? Didn't they have a professional cricket coach (Dakers, not Bowden) to whip the two senior elevens into shape?

If such hopes for the young School's inexperienced cricketers were unjustified, they were at least excusable. Ridley desired desperately to taste triumph. Unhappily, the First XI won their first match by defeating Welland C.C., whose XI had beaten them last year. It sent their optimism soaring to new heights, which meant the terrible let-down to follow was that much harder to bear. *They lost all their remaining matches!* The season's record was so dismal – 1 win, 5 losses – that only the inspiration of their first inter-school cricket match – against T.C.S. – was a counter to complete gloom. The boys could not see the T.C.S. game as the bright omen it really was to their cricket future so there was nothing to help maintain School spirit. It was very low before that awful series of cricket losses was well behind them.

The Cricket Committee had gone after outside competition in earnest, especially with T.C.S. and U.C.C. Cricketer Mr. Miller was now convinced that Ridley's cricket could not develop effectively except by meeting other elevens no matter how experienced, even if they lost for half a dozen years. ("We have tried hard to secure a match with Upper Canada College, but they evidently do not think that Bishop Ridley College has prestige enough to risk their reputation in playing us. It is not very sportsmanlike if

they do feel they have cause for this action. Trinity College School has been more gracious.”)

The following is the first innings’ score of the cricket match against Welland Cricket Club on May 7, 1892, Ridley’s only victory in a disappointing season.

BISHOP RIDLEY COLLEGE

A. Arthurs, ct. Woodworth, b. Tuckey	0
A. C. Kinstone ct. Woodworth, F., b. Crow	3
A. W. Anderson, b. Tuckey	11
Dakers (pro) b. Martin	15
Mr. Miller, b. Martin	17
Mr. Williams, b. Martin	0
A. Allan, b. Martin	1
H. Evans, run out	0
A. Alexander not out	2
W. Wadsworth, b. Martin	0
C. D. W. Uniacke, b. Wilson	0
Extras	6
	<hr/>
	55
	<hr/>

WELLAND – FIRST

Gilchriese b. Dakers	0
G. C. Woodworth, run out	0
A. Crow, run out	3
Cohoe b. Dakers	1
Sidey b. Dakers	0
Garden b. Kingstone	0
Martin b. Dakers	0
Tuckey b. Dakers	0
F. Woodworth b. Dakers	2
Wilson, not out	4
J. Crow b. Dakers	7
Extras	2
	<hr/>
	20
	<hr/>

It is noted that Dakers, Ridley’s pro, took 7 wickets and scored 15 runs, but in Welland’s second innings, with Kingstone and Arthurs doing the bowling, Welland bats were checked even more closely (for only 16 runs). The Headmaster’s 17 was the top score. But all was disaster after this match.

Here was the bleak seasonal record –

- B.R.C. vs. Welland – Won by an innings and 19 runs
- B.R.C. vs. East Toronto – Lost by 9 runs
- B.R.C. vs. Welland – Lost by an innings and 6 runs
- B.R.C. vs. Trinity College School – Lost by 101 runs
- B.R.C. vs. East Toronto – Lost by 8 wickets
- B.R.C. vs. Hamilton – Lost by 24 runs

The T.C.S. defeat by 101 runs was a shocker. The East Toronto Cricket Club played earlier was also experienced, and if they downed Ridley twice the School's XI were not at all disgraced, but the T.C.S. team demonstrated why the boys' school at Port Hope was known as the cradle of school cricket in Canada. The T.C.S. defeat taught a painful lesson on the extent of cricket experience and skill which Ridley had still to attain. But they would improve.

The Headmaster's optimism was not dampened. He was looking at the long-term implication of the T.C.S. game. The moment Trinity College School had accepted Ridley's cricket challenge, a general acceptance was implied of Ridley as a cricket school. With rivalry begun in both cricket and football, he felt the School was also accepted as an established contemporary in all inter-school sport. This was true. From the football games of 1891 and this first inter-school cricket match in 1892 would now grow the invaluable inter-school rivalry of the remarkable school sports league which in time would be known as the Little Big Four. Without a trophy (in the case of cricket and football) its purely symbolic championship would be fiercely contested through many wonderful decades of sport. They were still only a trio, Upper Canada College, Toronto, Trinity College School, Port Hope, and Ridley College. St. Catharines, but within a few years St. Andrew's College, Toronto, later Aurora, would be founded to make the fourth.

For all four, to win the championship in one of the two sports by defeating each of the others in its season, was to be a glorious achievement. To defeat all schools in both cricket and football in a single year meant the athletic championship of their world – their small, but tremendously important school world. This double-championship was to be their most elusive grail, and the one they never ceased striving to attain.

It was during these early days on rough Ridley games fields that the privilege of wearing the orange and black was felt for the first time with its full proud, deep meaning. It was still only an intensely desired, personal distinction to the hockey colours, who would not be fully conscious of that meaning until they faced a rival school in battle on the ice, but both the rugby and cricket colours were already realizing that to wear the School's colours in an inter-school tournament was actually a humbling thing. Against T.C.S., the chosen for the First XI had felt like knights in the lists of old; their feelings were so strong they thought they must be known by the very wicket they defended. There was great obligation, too; the honour of Ridley was in their hands. That was why a hidden bitterness and a great, young determination soon to be worthy to wear the School's cricket colours, had been behind their polite congratulations to T.C.S.

It was, of course, only reflecting the truth that everything is all steep mountain tops or deep pits with a schoolboy; he feels things with such intensity that all is high drama, either triumph or tragedy, with nothing that matters much in between. Always in the future, this would underlie the

fierce effort of a boy wearing Ridley's black and orange on a games field. It would often stiffen the will of emotional boys to win in heroic fashion, and defeat would sometimes be so hard to bear that bearing it would itself be a lesson.

It is a tribute to those who were now instilling the fine principles of sportsmanship at Ridley that they understood boys and knew these things. The tendency to bestow a team colour too easily, and solely for athletic prowess, was checked; the honour of the School could not be sullied by the unworthy. Denial of a team colour to a skilled athlete was to be rare, but it would occur often enough in the future that the true meaning of the School colours was never forgotten.

This attitude toward the colours quickly became an unchallenged school tradition. It is likely that it first took firm hold during the long-forgotten autumn of 1891 and spring of 1892.

A SINGING SCHOOL

IT was now that the Headmaster began to achieve another characteristic he desired for Ridley. In his youth, few features of English boarding schools had impressed him more than their sing-songs. He liked to hear boys singing with full-throated abandon, for to him it meant they were happy and he also saw it as a sign of good school morale. Besides, he liked to sing; he felt there was a lift to the human spirit in singing, especially by choirs, and when many boys joined in a chorus.

He had attempted to form a Glee Club during the first winter, without much success, perhaps because so many things were being organized and tested for the first time. But last winter, with the enthusiastic help of the Rev. Mr. Hodgins, a fine pianist, a start had been made to establish a Glee Club as a permanent Ridley institution. All the masters took part throughout the winter months of 1892, and more and more students were voluntarily gravitating to the gym on Glee Club nights. The volume of their swinging, resonant choruses reverberated throughout the whole school. By spring, Mr. McClean was rehearsing boys for a minstrel show, the Headmaster and Mr. Hodgins were rehearsing the Glee Club for an ambitious public concert, and at almost any hour you could hear a boy whistling one of the choruses. When the Headmaster heard low-voiced singing in the dormitories as the gas-lights went out, he was content that Ridley had taken on that characteristic he desired: Ridley was a singing school.

On the night following the Queen's Birthday – with a holiday at home on the 24th denied to all – Mr. McClean's seven black-faced comedians and singers staged an hilarious minstrel show in the gymnasium. Fluddom (alias C. H. Flood) singing *When Nellie Was Raking the Hay*, and Maniac Uniacke's

Susan Brown made the big hits, but a well-disguised and unidentified volunteer, who daubed on lamp-black at the last minute, won cheers and thumping applause for a parody he had concocted to jeer at the minute cuts of apple pie served at tea-time –

*My Nellie's blue eyes,
My Nellie's blue eyes –
Those boarding-school pies,
They'd use them in France
As buttons for pants –
Those boarding-school pies.*

This ditty was never honoured with space in *Acta* (for obvious reasons), but it was heard with zest because growing boys are always hungry, with Ridley boys not only no exception but without a family larder to raid at night. Food is an important subject in a boarding school. They seemed to thrive on the good, but unimaginative Ridley meals. If they loved Miss Cleghorn, the Matron, because she was never too busy or too tired to do little things for them, it seems she was neither a good cook nor very interested in food. This was, of course, long before the day of the institutional dietitian. (“When I see all the fuss they make today about balanced diets, I can’t understand how we all didn’t collapse on the football field – from vitamin deficiency!”)

The minstrel show had been a final entertainment for the parents and other visitors who stayed over after viewing Ridley’s great two-day third annual games. Convinced that only the perverse vagaries of weather had drowned out their sports the spring before, they had again scheduled them for the Queen’s Birthday period. The events were so numerous and well filled they were staged on both Saturday, May 21, and on Monday. (“They were run off promptly, there being no vexatious delays which are sometimes a feature of Canadian Athletic Association meetings.”)

The prize-winners of the events which gave points toward the Ridley Senior and Junior championships were:

TRACK AND FIELD: WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP

<i>Event</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Junior</i>
100-yard dash	Arthurs	Brown
	Caldecott	Fisher
Quarter-mile run	Alexander	Marks
	Caldecott	Brown
220-yard dash	Arthurs	Brown
	Alexander	Marks
Hurdle-race	Arthurs	Fisher
	Elwood	Brown
Half-mile run	Alexander	–
	Flood	

Among the many other athletic tests were new ones: football kicking, won by Chas. Macdonald; a junior event, throwing a cricket ball, which Harmer won easily; and throwing a lacrosse ball, won by Flood with a hurl of 278.3 feet. His record stood for a long time.

The champions of Ridley for 1892 were: Senior, G. A. Arthurs, whose 28 points distanced all serious rivals; Juniors, Percy Fisher and S. Brown, tied with 16 points. (One had to wait for his cup, but it came along in due course from the donor, Mr. George Gooderham.) His son, Mr. W. G. Gooderham, had given the Senior Championship Cup in 1892, and it remains as Ridley's oldest athletic trophy. (It is the exact age of the Stanley Cup.)

The Glee Club staged its long-planned concert on June 3, and the talent must have surpassed themselves. Interest in musical programmes would wane and rise at Ridley, but it is not likely that humour was ever funnier to a gym audience, or that one ever left the thought that the baritones and tenors gave promise of grand opera. In other words, the participants, the student audience and more than a hundred guests from town seemed to enjoy the night with extraordinary zest. For the evening, Ridley even produced a school orchestra to assist Mr. Hodgins and his piano. Mr. Hodgins also had another assistant, Miss Bate, who was "greeted with rapturous applause". Everything went off perfectly except for consternation among the ladies caused by the Chinese lanterns late in the evening; when the candles burned low the wax dripped on their hats.

With the Headmaster in his element as leader of the choruses, everyone joined wholeheartedly in the song festival. Solos were rendered by H. C. Griffith, F. Hazard, E. M. Hooper, C. H. Flood and H. F. Darrell. Each member of the academic staff was also a performer. Mr. Williams, Mr. Cody, Mr. Hodgins and Mr. Steen each contributed to the concert, giving dialogues or readings if they couldn't sing. The one instrumentalist was Maniac (C. D. W.) Uniacke, on the violin. ("One lady said it was deplorable that a boy who could play the violin like that should have an awful nickname like that.")

The individual performers were perhaps most appreciated by the adult visitors, but the boys themselves would have voted for the roaring choruses of the Glee Club, because they could sing, too. They sang the rollicking *Forty Years On*, the inspiring *Men of Harlech*, the humorous *Pork, Beans and Hard Tack*, and then, *May God Preserve Thee, Canada*, to close the show. Months afterwards, you would hear boys whistling *Men of Harlech*, because they liked its strong refrain, and also because they had learned it was a famous British Army march, the regimental march of the Welsh Guards.

There was keen disappointment when that fall term opened and *Acta Ridleiana* failed to appear as usual. Human frailties being what they are, this valuable school asset may not have been fully appreciated until after it was

lost. There was regret that economics should have forced the new Editorial Committee, headed by Mr. Steen, to close shop. Their first issue (also their last) had the improvement of a stiff cover, which was lauded, but apparently the merchants of St. Catharines had withdrawn their support, or perhaps the boy space salesmen fell down on the job; in any event, the issue only carried two very small advertisements to help pay the printing bill.

Happily, the gap left by the demise of *Acta* soon appeared serious; the expressions of regret over its untimely death turned to complaints from both boys and Old Boys, with a strong hint of accusation – that economy could better be practised in some other direction. It is not known how the financial problem was handled, but at Christmas, 1894, *Acta Ridleiana* was reborn. It appeared as a quarterly, to general applause (including that of the researchers for this volume many years later).

That last issue of 1892 had a feeling of finality, of a farewell production about it, so Mr. Steen had considered it fitting that it should carry a commemorative tribute to their namesake, Bishop Ridley, the Martyr, before it was too late. The student-biographer assigned to the task did not describe the martyred Bishop's personality or stubborn nature in detail, except to recall his prodigious memory and to mention his wit. He told how Nicholas Ridley had entered Pembroke College, Cambridge, in 1518 and had achieved the prodigious feat of committing to memory all the epistles of the New Testament, something which had roused awe in all schoolboys ever since.

"He became Bishop of Rochester in 1547 and Bishop of London in 1550," the young author related. "Three years afterwards, when Mary came to the throne, he was imprisoned for his Protestant teachings, and he was burned at the stake with Latimer, on October 16, 1555 – on the common in front of Balliol Hall, Oxford." He closed his account with the famous verse:

*Rome thundered death; but Ridley's dauntless eye
Stared in Death's face, and scorned Death standing by.
In spite of Rome, for England's faith he stood;
And in flames he sealed it with his blood.*

To range the outdoors, footloose and free, should be a part of boyhood, and Ridley was a wonderful place in these years for an active lad who could be blissfully happy travelling a war-path or a frontier trail in imagery. The surrounding countryside was still well treed, cut with creeks and dotted with swamps and marshes, and there were wide stretches without sign of habitation. It was simple for an imaginative boy to relive the life of a Huron or Chippawa for an hour or so. This would have been easier if he did not constantly encounter other boys' wigwams, hung with wooden tomahawks

and coconut scalps, and hunters' huts bearing an un-Indian sign saying: Death to Intruders. The boys of Ridley were building such secret abodes in the woods well before Kipling wrote in *Stalky & Co*: "In summer all right-minded boys build huts in the furze-hill behind the College – little lairs whittled out of the heart of prickly bushes, full of stumps, odd root ends and spikes – a place of retreat and meditation, where they smoked."

Unhappily, the most famous – or, rather, most infamous – Ridley hut such as that built later by Stalky, McTurk and Beetle, was hastily made in the autumn of '92, from odd planks and bits of galvanized iron in a dense tree clump, well beyond the football field. It was called "The Gun Club" and had been fashioned as a hideout for the misnamed Noble Six, older boys who had just entered Ridley in September. They turned it into a den of iniquity which shamed the Headmaster and disgraced their School.

Smoking was considered by Ridley as at least a moral sin, if not a downright legal crime. It was a caning offence. It was never to be condoned for Ridley students; the College still does not have a smoking room. If there was not also a stated ban against drinking, it was because student drinking was considered so unthinkable a written regulation was not considered required. The Noble Six proved otherwise.

If they had not been strong, husky youths ranging from 16 to 18 years, detection might not have been so prompt, but they were new boys, being watched with curiosity, and hot resentment quickly developed over their avoidance of all games. They would walk straight past the footballers – with a jeer – then go on over a hill and vanish into their tree clump. Prefect Wadsworth grew incensed about their poor school spirit; he tracked down the Noble Six in their ignoble lair. They were drinking in their hut hideout as well as smoking.

A horrified Headmaster heard the prefect's report. He was incredulous, for the boys had been well recommended, but it was immediately verified. He expelled all six at once. ("A group of boys never before – or since has vanished from the environs of Ridley so suddenly and silently.")

It was the most shocking episode of the Reverend Mr. Miller's long tenure as headmaster of Ridley. He never forgot it, and it never ceased to pain him.

That the Headmaster was told for the honour of the School there can be no doubt. It was soon proved that Prefect Wadsworth did not do so because he was a fanatical opponent of Demon Rum. He was the only boy in the entire school who stood out that autumn against the persuasive eloquence of Mr. Arrowsmith, advocate of teetotalism. This English gentleman was a guest of the Headmaster for a week, a visit which culminated in The Great Ridley Conversion. He was waging a one-man war against drink in Canada. He was not a gloomy reformer of the hellfire school, but a jovial, charming man, dressed in tweeds and plus-fours, with a most eloquent tongue. He succeeded

in emotionally persuading every boy in the School, but one, to sign the pledge. Though he wasn't sure why, Wadsworth decided he was not going to sign a document declaring he would be a total abstainer the rest of his life. ("Mr. Miller made no effort to sway me," recalled Mr. Wadsworth years later. "He just remarked: 'It doesn't look very well.'")

It is suspected that the pledge was signed without much understanding of its meaning, for it seems to have been largely forgotten within a few days after the removal of Mr. Arrowsmith's persuasive presence from Ridley. There is no evidence that it later had a sobering effect on those who swore to be teetotallers for life, and it was only by chance that it was even remembered by Mr. Wadsworth, as he explored his mind for odd bits of quaint memorabilia from Ridley's early days.

Pledge-signing for smoking was also tried a little later at Ridley, after the cigarette habit had been taken up by Canadian youth; the oldsters at first largely stuck to their cigars, pipes and plugs of chewing tobacco. The signed smoking pledge proved just as ineffective as the one for temperance, but it was not abandoned until the 1930s. There were greater sins, and if the ban against smoking still held, the pledge was seen as a possible danger to the boys' respect for their given word.

The 1892 football season was such a disaster it could neither be forgotten nor ignored, and following a terrible cricket season it certainly did nothing to lighten things for the disturbed Headmaster. The school team, wrecked by departures, scored only three points in the entire schedule of school games, which fortunately was mercifully short. Frank Perry was football captain in 1892, and with Half-back McClean was held blameless for the débâcle that bleak October: Lost to Toronto *Victorias*, 22-3; lost to Hamilton Seconds, 47-0; lost to Trinity College School (the crowning indignity), 15-0. (Said a sad Old Boy: "We underwhelmed three teams and overwhelmed none.")

Mr. McClean, who chaired the Football Committee, attempted to cheer the morgue-like gloom shrouding its final meeting by quoting Montaigne's, "There are some defeats more triumphant than victories," but they knew their football trouncings were not in that category, so it did little good. As Mr. McClean was not given to quoting aphorisms in this day of their great popularity, it can be assumed he was extremely despondent, too.

Mr. McClean also chaired the Tennis Committee, which had an active year, but as tennis was strictly an intramural recreation there were no school matches, no defeats, to record. A. Alexander was Senior Singles Champion for 1892, with E. W. Marks, Junior Champion. The Senior Doubles winners were G. A. Arthurs (Senior Sports Champion) and A. Alexander (brother of Mrs. Miller).

The prefects of 1891-2 were A. W. Anderson, E. M. Hooper, A. C. Kingstone, C. S. and G. P. MacDonald, F. M. Perry and W. R. Wadsworth (who was only fourteen years of age).

After Prize Day in 1892, Ridley could record three Head Boys of the School –

1890 – W. H. Cronyn

1891 – D. Bruce Macdonald

1892 – A. C. Kingstone

More important to the entire school – and certainly to Courtney Kingstone – was this notation at the top of the prize list in Ridley's Annual Calendar for 1892 –

Winner of the Gold Medal for True Manliness

A. C. KINGSTONE

The first vote had been held by the boys to honour the leading boy who possessed high character as the first of his personal qualities.

However, the first name on the oak Honour Board in the Great Hall listing the winners of the manliness medal is now that of D. B. Macdonald, 1891, but he was awarded the medal as a special honour by the Headmaster, not by the vote of the boys. The Blake Gold Medal was only announced on Prize Day, 1891, as about to be established, but the Headmaster had predated it, and did not follow its terms of reference, as a copy of the prize list for 1891 states –

*Winner of the Blake Gold Medal for faithful
performance as Head of the School*

D. B. MACDONALD

Just when it was decided that Bruce Macdonald's name should be placed first on the Honour Board is unclear; the award of the medal by the Headmaster to the future headmaster of St. Andrew's College was not recognized in Ridley's first decade. In the early Ridley annual calendars – a prospectus – the full list of the winners of the Blake Gold Medal for Manliness was published each year from 1892 to 1902, when the calendars were discontinued. The name of D. B. Macdonald, 1891, does not appear. That of A. C. Kingstone, 1892, headed each list.

As the term neared its end, the Headmaster knew the expulsion of the six boys had not ended the unhappy affair of The Gun Club. The reaction was already under way, none of it good. Such a thing takes wings, flying first of all direct to the parents, becoming garbled and darkened as it flies. Mr. Miller flinched mentally as he imagined he could hear the ladies gossiping over Toronto's tea tables: "Did you know . . . did you hear . . . I can't believe it . . . the boys drink at Ridley!" He knew the damage to Ridley could set progress back for years.

He had thought his understanding of boys and their quirks and vagaries, their alternate spells of serious study and splurges of careless mischief, was

sound. Now he doubted if he understood boys at all. He blamed himself bitterly for not seeing that these six boys could become an evil influence.

Yet he knew not a single boy had made a false hero out of one of the six expelled boys, and that there was nothing basically wrong in his school. The episode had been no more than unhappy mischance; the boys deeply resented it, and had been left unblemished, not even seriously unsettled. Like the master of a ship, the headmaster of a school knows when he has a happy and smooth-running charge under him and can sense instantly when things start to go wrong. As he listened to the cheery voices and stirring life of the School coming through his study door, he knew all was well; Ridley was confident, dedicated, sure in her sense of purpose.

Everything says that the Headmaster's understanding of Canadian boyhood was deep, and perhaps this was because he had deep sympathy. A boy would suddenly warm toward him by a glimpse of his mind which had revealed that the bearded but young Headmaster knew exactly what was troubling him and why.

He invariably kept a watch over the new boys, especially one who was an only child, or had been too sheltered for his own good, and now was experiencing close association with vigorous and rambunctious other boys for the first time. He sensed such a lad's loneliness and fear on suddenly being thrown to the mercy of a tribe of frightening young savages, which is how the alert, self-reliant (and proud of it) Ridley boys appeared to a new boy on first arrival. But the young savages respected the Reverend Mr. Miller, which meant he could always maintain control. A headmaster of a famous English school was once described as half clucking-hen and half-ogre with a stinging rod, and the headmaster of any boys' boarding school must fall somewhere between the two. To some boys at times the Headmaster of Ridley could be both; he was often as panicky as any mother when a boy was last seen far up the canal and was late, and if the good name of Ridley was besmirched his righteous wrath would be in his caning.

Despite the common assumption that most boys are careless of others' feelings and generally too immersed in their private affairs to think to be kind, there is a warm feeling in many memories of the experience of a green, frightened new boy at Ridley in these rather rough-and-ready Canadian years. Many a Ridley graduate remembers a kindly word extended to them by an older student in that awful hour of first arrival. ("I shivered inside, and was never more lonely in my life.") They do not say they remembered to do the same thing later for other frightened new boys, but they probably did. It is remarkable how well a reiterated saying of the Headmaster is remembered about a kindly deed going around the world, or around some cycle of time and events, and coming back to you.

One heart-warming Ridley cycle was that kindly hand stretched out to a timid new boy, term after term.

The Headmaster's nagging apprehension about the reaction of parents and others to the disturbing Gun Club crisis began to be relieved far sooner than he had hoped. It had grown to frightful magnitude in his mind as he still harried himself with self-blame. Shortly after the boys returned in January from their homes, he realized they had been emphatic emissaries of reassurance, loyal defenders of Ridley. Letters arrived apologizing for doubts and anxieties prematurely expressed; the boys had obviously scoffed at distorted rumours heard over the tea-cups and had placed the painful episode in its right category, an unfortunate mishap that would probably never recur so long as Ridley existed.

It helped that the six youths were Ridley students for only a short time – five weeks – but the outraged Headmaster would never forget the Den of Iniquity in the tree clump, and his righteous wrath when he expelled the Noble Six to guard the good name of Ridley, and especially to protect the younger boys. Perhaps he took comfort by recalling his own words, when he had emphasized for parents the value to a young boy of encountering and defeating the urge to emulate the type of older boys who should be shunned. He had said:

“It cannot be doubted that a young boy going into a large school, is often beset with the temptations to forget the teachings of home and the precepts of his early childhood. It always happens that his moral courage is, sooner or later, put to a severe test. The fascination of less innocent companions than himself, who possess the peculiar qualities which a boy is always ready to admire and envy, is hard to withstand.

“We can only remember that the time of trial comes to everyone. If it be kept back in childhood, it comes with more fearful force later on. He who acquires the power of moral steadfastness before the temptations of the great world come to try him, surely promises a higher armour as he fights. The boy who has won moral victories before going into life's battle, carries with him the stimulating power of self-containment. His vision is wider, his ideals are higher, his courage is stronger, than if he were yet untried.”

Mr. Miller suddenly knew he could cease torturing himself; the reactions of his boys had been a revelation; from the Sixth Form down to the youngest lad in the School there had been scorn and indignation. They had even put their parents right. The Headmaster now knew beyond all doubt that Ridley's future depended almost entirely on his boys, and also that Ridley's tomorrows were safe in their hands.

And peace pervaded the Headmaster's study once more.

6

The Shaping

"Schoolboy principles of boy-honour are serious things, and they were already very real to young Ridleians; they were unwritten, self-imposed laws which they obeyed manfully."

WITH the young College contentedly feeling itself solidly established by the opening of 1893, there still remained the doubt among educators on the value of the new boys' school at St. Catharines to Ontario's educational system. The Headmaster was content that this hesitancy by the educators was natural, without prejudice, and that it would dissolve rapidly as Ridley students moved on to the universities. He was growing satisfied with the scholastic grounding which Ridley was giving for higher education.

The School was also moving into the period when, he felt, its character should become more generally understood by the Canadian public, which should have a beneficial effect on the attendance level. Unhappily, Canadians were not familiar with the residential grammar-school method of preparatory education and were thus inclined to be suspicious of it. Improved understanding would come with time, but the Headmaster at the moment had an inadequate conception of how much time. The truth is, of course, that Canadians still do not understand the role of the independent schools, and have a shamefully inadequate estimate of the contribution they make to Canada in the creation and production of educated and well-balanced citizens.

Ridley's English features – principally cricket – were giving birth to repeated comments that it was not a Canadian institution, but a transplanted English school, which both distressed the Headmaster and made him impatient. He had yet to realize he must accept as inevitable the certainty that his type of school would always be criticized in some quarters. He would hear with indignation that Ridley represented an attempt by the English to foist their method upon Canada of only educating the privileged. He would be enraged almost beyond control when he first heard slurs, from the same source, that independent schools are places where snobs are bred, or havens for the unwanted or delinquent or mentally retarded sons of the wealthy.

By the time such things were said he had learned they could be ignored, dismissed with the contempt they warranted, and forgotten if possible.

In 1893, however, his pride in Ridley was such that just the hint of a misunderstanding of Ridley's role upset him. Had he not reiterated on every possible occasion that Ridley was not founded by men who believed in setting up class distinctions in the Canadian community?

"If anyone were to enquire into the character and opinions of the men who are Ridley's warmest supporters," he had insisted from the outset, "he would learn they had no thought of creating an aristocracy of *novi homines*."

The Headmaster had been explicit about the Canadian nature of the new college when he spoke for the founders and the Board on the first Prize Day. He had said: "If there is one thing I should like to claim for Ridley College above all, it is that it is intended to be, and is, in touch with the spirit of the Canadian people, and of Canadian institutions." He had insisted that Ridley's role was to supplement in a special way the excellent schools of Ontario. As he said, "Ridley College was not founded to do better academic work than the public and high schools of the Province."

He was confident it would all be clarified when Canadians saw the value of Ridley's influence in moulding young Canadians into useful manhood, with an unusually sound respect for the responsibilities of Canadian citizenship, but this was going to take much longer than he knew. In the meantime, as a means of conscientiously guarding against a drift in either administration or educational policies, which might prevent a Ridley graduate from merging easily into the Canadian scene, the Headmaster began an intense study of his Canadian-born students.

He felt he already understood them. He certainly respected them, sometimes more than he did a few of their parents, whom he would tick off with surprising bluntness. Because he was personally completely dedicated to the task of moulding young Canadians who were fitted by both education and mental attitude to be of great service to their community and country, regardless of their adult profession or calling, he could object forcefully if parents did not co-operate. He would not stand for parental interference with a boy's progress by smothering him with so much attention he was denied a feeling of independence, or by requesting his presence at home too frequently; and, conversely, he would protest vigorously, if diplomatically, when he felt there was parental neglect or failure to give a boy confidence by a sensible interest in his welfare and progress.

The average Canadian-born boy, he decided, was perhaps less respectful toward scholarship than the English boy he had known at school, but he had the same admiration for manly qualities. He was perhaps more naturally self-reliant and independent than the Old Country youth, especially when he was outdoors where most Canadian boys showed resourcefulness and felt

at home. He understood why. Many of his young Ridleians were products of pioneer Canadian families, and pride had been outspoken in their homes of ability to master the frontier, not very long before. They naturally tried, almost instinctively, to emulate their stalwart forefathers. It represented an important and valuable Canadian boy-value, whose prideful counterpart in an English boy was in a family background of the army or the sea.

The Headmaster appreciated these things, as he took careful stock of the kind of Canadian which Ridley would soon start to produce in numbers. That this was often on his mind was revealed in his prize-day speeches to parents. The pattern of Ridley's day-to-day life had fallen into shape; its routine was already set. Would his School shape boys into men who were also in a pattern – too close to a pattern? If this happened, it would mean loss of self-reliance, of confidence, of independence of mind, of the right mental viewpoint, even of moral courage – all the things that really mattered.

If Ridley was to succeed in its high purpose it must produce men with an urge to explore, to be life-long seekers of knowledge, with a determination to think for themselves.

He worried needlessly.

By good fortune there were always valuable iconoclasts in each crop of his young Canadians, though the masters who had to deal with them might not have agreed very enthusiastically for the moment that they had value, or that their presence was good fortune. There were always boys with what seemed like a streak of pure cussedness in them, to make sure a master's life did not become monotonous. There were always others whose independent and ceaselessly enquiring minds seemed to take delight in questioning, even exploding the polite conventions by which the masters hoped to rule things in a comfortable way. They, too, helped prevent the masters from becoming bored with a life that was all sweetness and light. No attempt was ever made by Ridley to hammer them into a single rule-book mould, though this treatment of malleable youth would have made control easier. Instead, Ridley's system of boy-control was already handling much of the disciplinary problems, with a master's strap or the Headmaster's cane held as a last resort. Coupled with this, the presence of independent-minded boys among each year's group of new Canadian boys would see to it that Ridley did not fall under the stultifying influence of too much conformity. In any compact, disciplined and partially isolated community, such as Ridley's boy-population, this is always a danger. The young iconoclasts were the School's insurance against such a blight.

Even after only three years, *The Ridley Boy* was gradually becoming a visible and definite composite personality. He had characteristics based on a specific set of standards of behaviour and viewpoint. It was too soon for the Headmaster to visualize how far such a composite boy would develop, but

in any event the similarity was in a mental attitude – moral courage and an independent mind – which defied conformity. The hallmark of Ridley would be in character and respect for ideals and principles.

The danger never really existed of the kind of conformity developing which results in a common mediocrity. A sense of rivalry was too strong in all phases of school life. The realization was too clear that the Ridley boy had to be fitted to look after himself in a highly competitive world. But that the Reverend Mr. Miller was still unsure if he was succeeding is apparent in the frequency of his moments of introspection and self-examination throughout Ridley's first ten years.

That the process to mould young minds to be analytical, decisive and independent was already successfully in progress was at length attested by the high proportion of success in after-school life achieved by Ridley's graduates of these first college years. This observer noted that among them there were doctors, lawyers, clerics, men rising high in finance and doing well in business, but that very few had become politicians. He wondered why. With a grin, an Old Boy said dryly: "Because Mr. Miller's great subject was ethics."

Mr. Miller's only interest in politics was the keen observation of the scholar, but this implication of his influence on Ridleian attitudes was quite true. His ideas had great weight over a period of thirty years, and it was his fascination with human behaviour which averted any chance of too much conformity in Ridley's students. He was now working on a penetrating study and analysis which would be published as a text, *Studies in Ethics*, and he kept hammering home his conviction on the value of an independent mind, backed by high moral courage. (*Headmaster to students*: "It is far better to come a cropper by taking a firm stand than to sit on a fence like a petrified wren.")

It was well that the Headmaster never knew how long it would really take for some educators in distant universities to become satisfied with the scholastic standards of graduates of the Canadian independent schools. As late as the 1950s, there would be the odd professor in a Western or Eastern Canadian university who still held the disparaging view which some university faculties in Ontario now held, an opinion which did not change until the graduates of the independent schools had proved themselves. This proof was not yet provided. The idea would be hard to dislodge that the boys attending independent schools were all sons of wealthy parents, that such schools were a sort of haven for misfits and failures, and that their boy-populations were comprised of those who had been sent there for one or more of these unflattering reasons:

- For any social prestige which might be reflected;
- Because a boy could not get along in a state-controlled school;

- Because the 24-hour restraint of a boarding school was needed for a wayward or difficult boy;
- Because a boy was a slow student, or even mentally retarded, requiring the individual attention which is possible in an independent school.

Believing such a fallacy, it was natural that a companion error by some university people should be that the graduates of the independent schools must have a poor academic standard. It was a common challenge to all the Canadian independent schools, one which they had to accept and live with. Over the next twenty years they steadily proved that such a concept of an independent school was false, but they only did so by proving that their graduates could meet any scholastic entrance qualifications which the universities desired to set. There is a forgotten achievement in this, which should now be remembered with satisfaction by all Old Ridleians.

Because Ridley was up for both self-examination and external judgment in these years, there must have been temptation to go all out for high scholastic repute first of all. This was never out of sight, for parents and the universities were watching, but it was not permitted to submerge the high purpose to which Ridley had dedicated itself. As concentration was given to the shaping of boys into men of sound character, Ridley was herself being shaped, and there was never doubt in the Headmaster's mind on the form the School must take. In his view, no amount of formal education could be of real value unless the products of Ridley could think straightly. He expressed his philosophy – which was already Ridley's – in these words:

“The one thing to be looked for in the training and education of a boy is, not what has been accomplished, not what is the actual performance, not how much knowledge has been obtained, but, what is the promise?”

“It is not necessary that a boy should win prizes, and feel the stimulus of mental success, and perhaps rejoice in the power of beating all competitors.

“It is necessary that he should have moral power, and learn to discriminate right conduct, and love to practise it. . . .

“It is too soon to look for results, even at the end of a boy's school life; it is wrong to be too eager about them. It is enough to ask: what is the promise?”

“Has he learned the meaning of duty? Has he acquired any strength in fighting against its irksomeness? Has he ever won a moral victory? Does he understand that his own strength is but weakness? Does he know where to look for strength, and where to place his reliance when beset with temptations to leave the straight way?”

“By the time a boy leaves school, he cannot have accomplished much, but we should look most anxiously for signs of coming power, and the promise of moral steadfastness, and positive Christian character.”

Such was the philosophy which was shaping Ridley and by which Ridley was shaping her young Canadians. If there were disparaging views here and there about the academic standards of the products of the independent schools, they were not going to swerve Ridley from her high purpose.

There was little reflected in school life of the hard times the newspapers were now deploring. The depression of the Nineties touched the careless life of a Ridley boy very lightly; in any event it was an adult harassment, and the private affair of the Headmaster and bursar. It was far more important that bachelor muskrats had been again spotted along the canal, and that Ridley hockey picked up in both tempo and prospects for inter-school games (which faded out as the ice turned to slush). Detention and food always mattered, and there was much preoccupation over two new masters. The boys were eyeing them intently, trying to discover if they were strap or detention masters and to decide on the best tactics to cope with them.

In later years, a new master could be given a "first year of hell", with the boys treating him to their mass-attack tactic if they did not accept him easily, or if he lacked the strength of personality to demand good order and get it. They could make his classes a hideous bedlam. As yet, however, the boys' tests of a new master were not so extreme, perhaps because they had not yet encountered one they disliked or distrusted. They would meet these at odd times much later on, and when they did there would be demonstrations by mass-attack by a full class which would make or break the new arrival. The entire class might start stamping in unison, wrecking his lecture. Or they might suddenly rise on a hidden signal, confer in football-huddle style in the middle of the room, or go and come in groups in endless movement – all the while ignoring the red-faced, frightened or furious new master. If the livid man lost control, they had won. It was up to him; he had to make it with the boys, or else. If he failed to win the respect of the boys sufficiently to maintain control of his classroom, he fell by the wayside. But such drastic action was not even as yet thought about; the time for such measures was still in the future. The new master was as yet just the object of intense curiosity, until they could decide how far they dared go in taking liberties, and whether he would be easy or difficult to outwit.

When a strange teacher arrived at Ridley, he seldom realized he was inspected as closely as a sheep tick under the magnifying glass in science class. He came to be judged. He remained under judgment until the boys had fitted him to their satisfaction into one of their private categories for masters. They had to know if he was gullible, easy-going, a martinet, or a humourless man. Could he be safely contradicted in class? Could he take a practical joke? Would he accept a highly imaginative excuse if it had the merit of clever originality?

They felt their scrutiny was necessary, a matter of student self-defence or

even of survival. It would do if they just had this answer: was he a real Ridley master, firm but fair, or just another school-teacher who played favourites and dealt gently with fawners and lick-spittlers?

The two new masters of 1891 (White) and 1892 (Stewart) were not long at Ridley but there could be no doubt of their scholastic qualifications:

CLASSICS

W. H. White, B.A. Trinity University: First-class honours in classics and in mental and moral philosophy; Wellington Scholar; Prince of Wales prizeman in classics; departmental specialist in classics.

MODERN LANGUAGES

A. M. Stewart, M.A., LL.B. University of Toronto: First-class honours in modern languages and in political science; Governor-General's medallist; Wyld prizeman in English. University College: Fellow in German.

That Ridley could not always retain such scholars again illustrates the great problem of all schools, and of the independent schools especially. Those outside the state system found this factor in operations particularly difficult because it was then (and still is) imperative for them to have masters of unquestionable scholastic ability. They were an obligation; Ridley, for instance, could not afford to risk retaining mediocre teachers, as the public schools could, and did, for on the academic staff rested the repute of the School. An independent school cannot live long without sound scholastic repute.

In the five years starting about 1893, in which an economic depression spread like a dark blight across Canada, there was little expansion in Canadian education, and very few new schools were founded. This did not seem to relieve Ridley's problem in obtaining skilled masters who were content to be teachers and who did not consider a post at Ridley as merely a stop-gap or a stepping-stone to what they felt would be a wider, more lucrative or satisfying career. Born teachers were scarce and always would be. It was not until 1901, when Ernie (E. G.) Powell joined the staff, that Ridley obtained a master who, with the Headmaster and Mr. Williams, would stay so long with Ridley that his life became inextricably enmeshed with that of the School. A little earlier (1899) a boy would leave to finish his education, and would come back to teach, whose life would also seem to be an integral part of the School itself – Harry Griffith. But all through the Nineties the staffing situation had the stamp of impermanence. Staffing would be like a chronic migraine for all headmasters, and the annual headache started in these precarious first years. The original, wonderful panel of masters were soon all gone, with the exception of the Reverend W. J. Armitage, who continued to teach divinity until he moved to Halifax in 1897.

The turnover had begun in 1893; Mr. Stewart and Mr. White both stayed

until 1894. Arriving in 1893 were Mr. A. H. Burns, who stayed one year, and Mr. J. A. Burgess, who fortunately remained for three; Mr. C. A. S. Boddy came in 1894 for one year; Messrs. J. Barker and T. Williamson came in 1895 but both left again after one year; in 1896, Mr. W. B. Hendry, Mr. W. E. Barber, Mr. W. Bryce and Mr. W. H. Wood joined the staff, but only Mr. Hendry and Mr. Wood remained more than a single year; Mr. Wood stayed until 1898, and Mr. Hendry was with Ridley until 1900.

As each staff change meant disruption, the Headmaster could never feel confident he had continuity in the teaching of some subjects.

There was no resentment by the School because a master considered teaching a stepping-stone; for many years to come in Canadian education this would be an accepted situation; as a rule it was by agreement, and most preparatory schools, both public and independent, were often pleased to obtain a scholarly teacher even for a short period. Headmaster Miller had known from the outset that Ridley would not be able to keep his first wonderful group of masters. The unremitting quest of all Ridley's headmasters was to be the search for career teachers, men who found deep satisfaction in guiding young minds. In many instances, a new master was still in doubt on his arrival whether or not he wished to make teaching his career until he had tried it. There was little a headmaster could do then but hope that he discovered he had found his niche. (A future headmaster of Ridley would be one of these. Harry Griffith, now one of Ridley's most brilliant students, probably always desired to teach, if he could not know that he would some day be the honoured headmaster of Ridley, but this was not so of his successor, Dr. J. R. Hamilton, who was unsure for nearly a year before he became captured by Ridley and knew that he desired the rewards a natural teacher knows.)

In our concentration on the boys of Ridley and their future professional careers, the personal conflict which their masters frequently had to resolve before a decision was reached to remain a school-teacher, should not be forgotten. They may sometimes feel that the value of their role has become lost in this chronicle of Ridley's boys at school, but they were not forgotten or taken for granted. They were the moulders and teachers and could never be unimportant.

More than one Ridley master became impatient with the eternal grubbing for facts and their compilation, which at their low mental intervals seemed to sum up the scope of a teacher's intellectual range. They had an inner urge to look at scholarship in the Emersonian sense: "The harvest of man's thinking." They would then remember that their great contribution was in encouraging their boys to think, and how to apply their thinking, and would know peace again. They would know that by teaching a boy to use his mind they would put thought behind his future actions which was, after all, closely linked to Emerson's philosophic sense of scholarship: "He who has put forth his total strength in fit actions has the richest return of wisdom."

Such reasoning no doubt convinced Ridley's scholarly teachers of the future that their role had a rich reward. They could insist on accuracy and precision, but without mathematical dryness, while reminding their boys that wit and poetry and wonder lie beneath the hard surface of facts. They could thus lend purpose and even grace to routine as part of the essential process of learning how to think and how to translate ideas into action. Such masters could adorn and illuminate any subject they touched. They could spark young imagination. Ridley always had her share of them.

She had them during these early Ridley years; her masters may not have been themselves career-teachers; most of the masters of the early staffs considered their period at Ridley as a stepping-stone; but they were responsible for the School's atmosphere which had already induced two great Canadian educators of the future to plan to become teachers of boys. The two Ridley boys of the first decade who went on to be headmasters of preparatory boys' schools were D. Bruce Macdonald ('89-'91) and Harry Griffith ('89-'96). Don Macdonald was an ordained Minister, but left the church for education. (*Postscript*: Despite Ridley's production of these two famous headmasters in her first years, teaching did not hold strong attraction for Ridley's graduates later. In the autumn of 1962, a total of 231 young Old Boys were in the universities but few would teach. At that time, thirty-one older graduates carried the title "the Reverend" but only twenty-nine were teaching. Her Old Boys totalled well over 4,000.)

IN THESE pre-flashlight days, the candle carried at night by prefects and masters on duty was a great help to venturesome boys, who liked the shivering thrill of tip-toeing with bated breath through dark, forbidden halls. The candle-light was a fine warning; it made authority easy to elude. An entire squad of midnight raiders could often creep undetected from *Liberty Flat* all the way to *Top Flat*, and back. That is, if the victims did not raise too much uproar in protest.

It is now that their study of the masters and prefects would bring its reward. With this knowledge, plus the intuition of all mischievous boys, derived from the primal instincts of hunter and hunted, they could always sense reactions to tell-tale sound in the night. They might have trouble with new arrivals, which was why they had intently studied Mr. Stewart and Mr. White. By last winter, when a restless, young trouble-hunter proposed some hair-breadth midnight enterprise, just to be doing something, they could estimate their chances with remarkable accuracy. They knew Prefect Macdonald had a squeaky shoe, that Prefect Billy Dixon could look the other way, that Mr. Steen read so much on duty he was generally sleepy, that Mr. Cody had the night-eyes of a cat, and that Mr. Hodgins was a little clumsy and could be depended upon to knock something over before launching a rush into the hall.

Before he had left, Mr. Spotton had been the man to watch; he could pounce out of nowhere, and always bagged his prey.

Both Mr. Steen and Mr. Spotton were gone, and they had decided Mr. Stewart would be the new danger; he looked a little like their image of Sherlock Holmes and was probably a keen detective. Boy-honour was so strong at Ridley a master had to catch a night-prowling boys in the act, for he would learn little by detective work or questioning, and nothing from his captive. If a small boy was nabbed and marched back to his cubicle by the lug of his ear, wriggling like a hooked trout but uttering un-troutlike squeals, those who escaped felt quite secure. A tale-bearer would be treated with such lordly contempt that this was far worse than six on each from the Headmaster's birch, or the prospect of being an inhabitant of the detention room for a long time.

Schoolboy principles of boy-honour are serious things, and they were already very real to young Ridleians; they were unwritten, self-imposed laws which they obeyed manfully. It was actually almost painless; in a close-knit boarding-school family where the toady is disdained, the cry-baby scorned, the braggart noisily derided, and the informer shunned as a slithering reptile, there was little else a small boy could do but act the man. As he grew older, he took such pride in the unwritten laws of Ridley he became their guardian and uncompromising enforcer.

This was why the Headmaster, who did not encourage informers, found it so difficult to stop the nocturnal escapades which went on that winter and spring. He finally placed wire doors at strategic spots in the passages, and adjured the Master-on-Duty to be more alert. This did little good; the boys just worked out a way to go around the blockades.

There was also word, and evidence, that Ridley boys were sneaking out of the school at night in large groups, with rumours of strange goings-on in Fairvale Park (now vanished). An unwary master coming home late walked into a whole bevy of boys, flat on the ground, but they were far less startled than he was for they had seen him coming. They melted into the dark like evaporating ghosts and when Mr. Cody, on duty, checked the dormitories, all boys were snoring; not one was missing. (He had not peered too closely at the sleepers, of course.) How did they get back into the school so fast? What had they been up to? It was their secret.

Next day two boys wore puzzling black eyes and some strange contusions were in evidence, but the stout denials of a fight in a dormitory had to be believed. It was quite true. The boys were settling their differences by fisticuffs in a proper ring in the park. The principals would take seconds and supporters along – "quite a mob of us sometimes".

Mr. Miller discussed a solution with the masters and revealed what he hoped would be a deterrent in a letter to President Merritt:

Mr. Armitage and I have decided to put some barbwire along the top of the Ontario St. fence. The boys slip over into the park after dark occasionally, and I have heard there has been some unseemly conduct there at nights lately.

The barbwire did little good either; the boys just burrowed under the fence, carefully concealing their sap in true prisoner-of-war style under branches and burdock leaves. ("There wasn't much excitement in the park anyhow, unless there had been a challenge for at least a four-man fight – two against two.")

The canal in these years was the physical feature which made boyhood spent in the neighbourhood a wonderful adventure, a phase of Ridley life which passed all too soon, but which held something for boys which was so valuable that nothing could ever quite replace it. Some Ridley boys were so fascinated by the canal they seemed destined to be sailors or at least rivermen. There was seldom a day when a raft-load of ten- and twelve-year-olds was not a shipwrecked crew from a British man-o'-war landing on Barbados, or castaways coming ashore to find Friday on Dafoe's Tobago, or else their raft was a six-gunned privateersman with all sails set, or they had Long John Silver's spyglass on a Spanish galleon, rich with the loot of Peru. Some older boys knew every inch of the canal's banks for miles. The same explorers were seen there day after day, even in winter, sometimes tracing the old course of Twelve Mile Creek so far inland they came dragging home very late to face time in the detention room, at least. They were lucky that the Headmaster knew an engrossed explorer of inland waterways has no idea of time, and that this tempered his apprehension about missing boys being drowned, the reason why swimming lessons and the bathing crib had been one of his first precautions.

FOR THE FIRST time Ridley had a first and junior cricket XI in the spring of '93 to send and accept challenges, which meant the season was long and busy. The School XI, captained by A. W. Anderson, defeated Merritton-Thorold in both May and June, lost twice each to East Toronto, Parkdale and Grimsby – six losses – but managed a wonderful victory over Trinity College seconds by 92 runs. A T.C.S. match was not planned; the Headmaster frankly realized that Ridley was not yet ready to tackle the formidable Firsts of T.C.S. Last year's lesson had gone home. The School XI then defeated a strong Old Boys' team.

The juniors covered themselves with much greater glory. They lost only once, and then by a single run, in a return match with Welland Juniors; they had defeated them earlier by another narrow margin, 6 runs. They also won from Merritton Juniors, Hamilton *Victorias* (Seconds) and Parkdale Juniors,

twice. Many of them moved up in 1894, so this fine record by the junior eleven was not repeated, but the First XI was being built up. Such reserve strength held great promise for Ridley's cricket future.

A marquee was always erected on the top of the Western Hill near the cricket house for a major cricket match, where tea and refreshments were served, with Mrs. Miller presiding. Cricket meant long wonderful afternoons for staff, students and many visitors.

*Then everybody praised the team
Which that great game did win,
And everybody found the tent
Where the college serves ice cream.
But things like that you know must be
After each famous victory.*

— *Acta Ridleiana*

That Ridley was still testing to find the best dates for her major public events is illustrated by the postponement of Prize Day in 1893 from the end of the academic year to September, no doubt with the intention of giving the new term an auspicious start. But the Queen's Birthday period was again chosen for Ridley's annual games.

The track-and-field events were run off in fine weather on May 25 and 26, with a big crowd of spectators on hand, for the first day especially. The Senior Championship was jointly won by two fine athletes, H. H. Knibbs and E. V. Elwood (both '91), which meant it was Mr. W. G. Gooderham who had to supply two cups this time. His Knibbs won the 100- and 220-yard dashes and the high-jump, with Ella Elwood taking the quarter-mile and half-mile runs and the hurdles.

Percy Fisher had no trouble winning the Junior Championship. He was first in the running broad jump, the quarter-mile run, the three-legged race and the hurdles. No other junior had a double win.

BOOK OF TESTIMONIALS

AS THE PLEASANT cricket and track-and-field seasons came to an end in 1893, and the School closed for the summer holidays, there was no sign that President Merritt and the Board of Directors were apprehensive about financial stress ahead. The boys' parents realized the Board was alert to it because they had already received the Ridley book of testimonials – a dignified, well produced brochure, obviously designed as a recruiting medium, and hopefully distributed.

A reduced number of boarding boys seemed inevitable when Ridley would

reopen. Fewer boys could be expected because many Canadian families were taking a tight hold on their purse strings as economic adversity – the depression of the Nineties – grew general in the country. Besides, the School in September would be at its first crisis in normal student turn over; at the start of the new term only two originals of 1889 would be left (W. E. H. Carter and H. C. Griffith). A marked increase in new boys would be required if the number of full-term boarding boys was to be maintained. Instead, a reduction was certain. Aware of this coming development, the Board had asked for written testimonials during the winter for their recruiting brochure, and the response had been encouraging.

Under the frank sales-title, *Recommendations*, some letters were formal applause – platitudes – from such influential friends of Ridley as the bishops of Niagara and Montreal, Principal Sheraton of Wycliffe and Principal Henderson of the Diocesan Theological College, Montreal. We imagine much more confidence in Ridley was engendered in the minds of prospective parents by other letters which told of first-hand knowledge and which rang with parental sincerity. Some of the parents who wrote with warm gratitude and appreciation were Sir Richard Cartwright, K.C.M.G., M.P., whose three sons attended Ridley; the Hon. T. M. Daly, M.P., Minister of the Interior, one son; the aged Sir Casimir Gzowski, K.C.M.G., A.D.C., two grandsons; the Hon. Mr. Justice Ritchie, Supreme Court of N.S., one son; Robie Uniacke, Halifax, one son; N. W. Hoyles, Q.C., Chairman of the Council of Wycliffe College and Ridley's Vice-President, one son; V. Cronyn, Chancellor of the Diocese of Huron, one son; T. H. Smallman, London, one son; His Honour Judge Benson, Port Hope, one son and W. G. Gooderham, two sons.

One letter, which was not in the brochure, but which appeared in the *Evangelical Churchman*, brought pleased satisfaction to a staff meeting in the Headmaster's study late in '93. It was from the Rev. Dyson Hague, M.A., Rector of St. Paul's Church, Halifax. He had visited Ridley in September and wrote in the *Churchman*:

Sir:

I paid a visit to St. Catharines a few days ago on purpose to see Ridley and some of the boys who have come all the way from Halifax to attend there, and I cannot refrain from writing a few lines to express my gratification with what I saw and heard.

The situation of the College is very pleasant, the staff of teachers very efficient, and the whole tone of the school very satisfactory.

It seemed to me that there was a thoroughly home look about the place, and the boys looked as merry and cheerful a set of boys as it has been my lot to see.

. . . Though it is hard for me, as an old Upper Canada College boy, to admit it, I can see that Ridley College bids fair to become the Eton of Canada.

—Dyson Hague

Headmaster Miller knew that last September Ridley had known old-style Eton-type features in the initiation of new boys, and he was determined to stop hazing and rough initiation "ceremonies" at the start of the coming term, just as the famous Dr. Thomas Arnold had reformed customs at Rugby. He had been watchful, for he knew how easily harmless pranks can drift into the concoction of highly imaginative tortures which can be brutal for the new boys when applied by a bully. After the start of the fall term in '92, an irate father wrote that his son's sleeping garments had been filched, that water had soaked his bed, and that he had been made to crawl naked on his hands and knees. Yelling dervishes had no doubt danced around him. The Headmaster did nothing; the retribution on the boy could be rough for complaining to his father. Besides, he was sure there had been worse than this comparatively mild hazing.

He had personally encountered a mild form of it in September, 1892. One day-boy had escaped his tormentors until the third day (because his older brother had called for him). When they caught their elusive quarry he escaped with a solo, rendered in crescendo three times, to dire threats: "Louder, louder, louder." The first solo was in a whisper, the second in a trembling falsetto, and the third in a sort of shrilling which ended in such a shriek (through being pinched from behind) that the Headmaster had come on the run, thinking a terrible accident had occurred. The scatteration was frantic.

He had then observed things quietly but closely; no one told, but he saw two scared new boys limping painfully and had Dr. Merritt examine them. No real harm was done, but with the new term of '93 approaching he issued a fresh set of boundary orders, and banned hazing, initiation and fagging. No student could mistake the firmness of these school orders; the Headmaster meant them.

Perhaps the day-boy's solo ordeal inspired it; in any event, there was shortly a New Boys' Concert, a hilarious event held regularly for some years, with each new arrival required to sing a song, or to recite instead, or to make a speech, or play an instrument, even a jews-harp, or do an impersonation. The New Boys' Concert briefly became a tradition, after it had washed out initiation high-jinks, which can so easily drift into cruelty. The concert helped nervous, timid boys get over their shyness amid the ordeal of first arrival.

There was no molly-coddling, as The Pale Face Club illustrates. Not all boys can be athletic, but all were expected to be at least interested in physical fitness. A few were dodging all games so noticeably, and also avoiding the gymnasium as if it were a plague-house, that they suddenly found themselves elected to the new club. They then trotted their legs off, twice a week in an endless circle, always in public. Wind, legs and colour quickly improved, but the ignominy of being a Pale Face worked even better; the club could disband within a month. It became the respectable Exercise Club which even had volunteer members.

When the School re-assembled after the summer holidays, it appeared that holding Prize Day in September might become custom; a fine crowd of visitors was attracted, arriving by train, road and boat, and with the *Toronto Mail*, which always displayed great interest in Ridley in these years, giving the School valuable publicity on the following day:

The college during the whole of the day was the scene of considerable activity. Many of the boys were out early gathering wild flowers with which to decorate the school, while others were in high glee over the expectation of seeing their parents and relatives, who were to come over to visit the College for the distribution (of awards), but the most pleased but considerably nervous boy of all was he who during the afternoon would have to march up before the large assemblage and bow his acknowledgments for the hard-worked-for, much coveted prize.

Held on September 13, the printed programme for Prize Day at once disclosed that 1893 had been Pussy Wadsworth's year. He had not only won the President's Gold Medal for scholastic proficiency, and was thus named Head Boy of Ridley, he was also voted by the boys to be honoured by the Blake Gold Medal for True Manliness. Athletic prowess was perhaps inclined to influence the boys' vote, but though Pussy was a fair cricketer and footballer there is no doubt he had won the respect of the School for his sense of responsibility, and his action in protecting the honour of Ridley in the case of the Gun Club.

He also matriculated to university (Trinity) this year, with first-class honours in English, French and German and second-class honours in mathematics, history and geography. In addition, the first name on the top of the list of boys who have won important scholarships is W. R. Wadsworth. (The Bishop Strachan, \$200.)

A. A. Allan won the Silver Medal for General Proficiency and Redney (H. C.) Griffith won the Hoyles award for English and also the Caldecott prize for modern languages. Other Fifth Formers to win awards were R. Stowel (mathematics), who also matriculated to university (McGill) this year, and Frank Perry (divinity).

OLD BOYS ORGANIZE (1893)

The first effort beyond conversation to organize the Old Boys of Ridley had occurred just before the following postcard notice was mailed:

Faculty B.R.C.
Toronto, October 19, 1893.

Dear Sirs:

A meeting of Old Ridley Boys will be held in Wycliffe College on Thursday, October 26th, at 7.30 p.m. sharp, to form an "Old



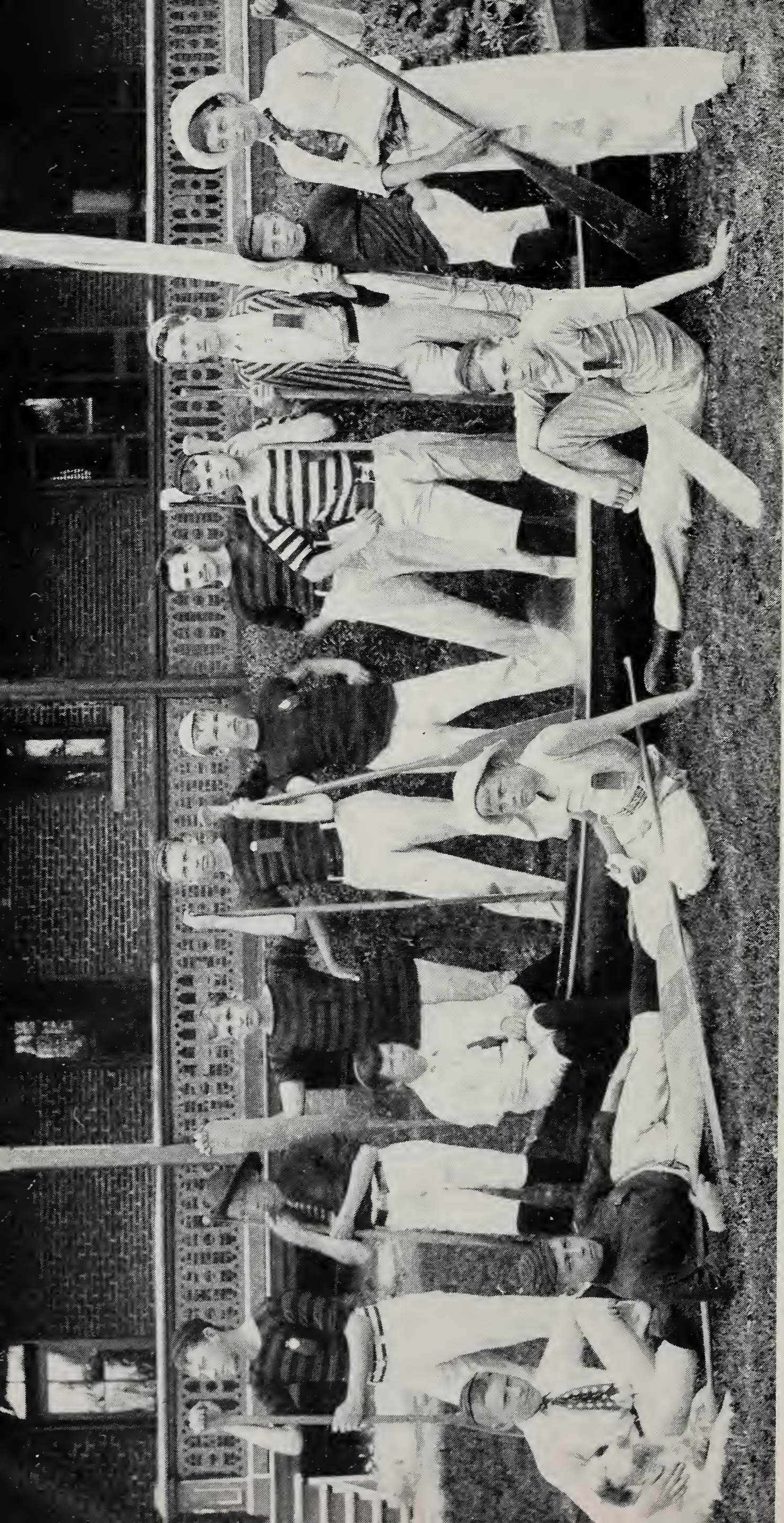
THE TRACK-AND-FIELD STARS 1893

In front (l. to r.): G. G. Mitchell; H. H. Knibbs; S. G. Brown; F. M. Perry; E. P. Fisher and E. V. Elwood. *Rear* (l. to r.): C. S. Gzowski; F. G. Coy; A. A. Allan; C. D. W. Uniacke; W. H. Gooderham; M. R. O'Reilly.



EARLY HOCKEY PLAYERS

Seven-man hockey was played. Sticks were light and expendable. The goal-keeper did not have a wide-bladed stick, wore a wicket-keeper's pads (when he could borrow a pair) and was penalized if he went to his knees to stop shots. Hockey was Ridley's great winter game long before the sport was organized in Ontario following erection of covered rinks.



THE BISHOP RIDLEY COLLEGE CANOE CLUB, 1892

The canoeists (front, l. to r.): Norman Ogilvie; W. R. Wadsworth; Walter Ogilvie. *(Sitting):* Harry Darrell; M. D. Baldwin. *(Standing, l. to r.):* G. O. Hayne; W. E. H. Carter; G. B. Street; C. S. MacDonald; Shirley Stewart; D. Bruce Macdonald (later Headmaster of St. Andrew's College); G. P. MacDonald; E. M. Hooper; Lorne Ogilvie; H. E. Hanning. The fleet totalled thirty canoes housed in a dozen boat-houses, including the Headmaster's.

Boys Association" of Ridley College, adopt a constitution, elect officers, and arrange for a dinner at a later date. We sincerely hope you will be able to be present.

H. J. Cody, W. H. Cronyn, D. B. Macdonald,
A. C. Kingstone and W. R. Wadsworth.

This led directly to the "First Annual Dinner of the Ridley Old Boys' Association", but the term "annual" was only an intention; the first dinner could not be followed through. It was held at Webb's in Toronto on December 22, 1893, with some forty-odd old Ridleians in attendance. Professor, the Rev. H. J. Cody, M.A. (now at Wycliffe), presided. The working committee had been composed of D. Bruce Macdonald, secretary; W. H. B. Spotton, B.A., first vice-president; W. H. Cronyn, second vice-president, and Messrs. E. M. Hooper, A. C. Kingstone, A. N. MacDonald and W. R. Wadsworth.

The events leading up to this start of the future wonderful Ridley auxiliary deserve recounting. One day in September, Socker Kingstone and Pussy Wadsworth, both studying law at Osgoode Hall, had met for lunch in the little hotel at the northeast corner of Queen and Chestnut streets. Neither T.C.S. nor Upper Canada had formed an official Old Boys organization, and the two Ridley Old Boys, still imbued with school spirit and a sense of school rivalry, thought it would be an excellent idea if Ridley led the way. The two law students then adjourned further discussion until they had visited the Ethiopian – Harry Darrell – at a produce warehouse on lower Yonge Street. Planning proceeded amid a great bustle and hustle as 6,000 turkeys (at 6¢ per lb.) were being crated for shipment to Liverpool.

It was decided by the trio that the membership fee would be one dollar annually, that Kingstone would be president and that Wadsworth as treasurer would at once open a bank account. There was a bit of embarrassment then for neither of the law students had a dollar. However, Treasurer Wadsworth opened the bank account of the Bishop Ridley Old Boys' Association next day with a single one dollar bill, provided by the affluent Exporter Darrell. The account was in the Imperial Bank at Leader Lane and Wellington Street.

This did not seem very enthusiastic financial support, but the three Old Ridleians were sure only this start was required. They were right, for the dinner at Webb's followed.

If this beginning was premature, because there were still not enough Old Boys to support an association, it was only a matter of time. The following year (1894) the Old Boys formed a football team to play the School (losing 7-6), but so little support was promised for a second dinner in December that the plan fell through. By 1898, however, enthusiasm for a re-stirring of old memories and loyalties was strong, and this time there was such a successful restart that within a year the permanent Old Boys' Association of today had been founded.

A GLORIOUS development occurred in Ridley hockey in 1895 – the first team played its maiden inter-school game if not against U.C.C. or T.C.S. It was not an inter-school game; their opponents were Trinity College Seconds; but they were so desperate to obtain inter-school competition they tried to believe this game was the start of it. The moment the challenge was accepted, the hockey players felt the pride and responsibility in wearing the orange and black which the cricketers and footballers had felt before them. To the competition-starved team this game was momentous.

The opportunity to play Trinity II came unexpectedly. The 1895 hockey season had opened as usual, with Upper Canada “up to its old trick of not answering our challenge”, and with Trinity College School again writing from Port Hope that “the boys must not be away from home in the winter”. Several attempts were made to entice a St. Catharines team to play, without luck, and the Hamilton team which had defeated Ridley in '93 (5-2) in the first outside test they had ever played, refused a return match. The despondent hockey team was foreseeing an empty year when, unexpectedly, a game was arranged against the *Victoria Colts*, and then another with Trinity College Seconds. This last was the big one!

To the disgust of a great turnout of Old Boys and a dismayed team, Ridley lost to the *Colts* 8-5. (“Ridley played shinny instead of hockey.”) But the defeat was not suffered in a school match, so it was not too important. All Ridley eyes and hopes were on the next game, against Trinity II. (“As we took the Grand Trunk for Toronto you could hear Ridley gritting its teeth.”)

They did not let the School down. Before a small but deliriously happy group of Old Boys, Captain Mackenzie put his team in the lead with a quick goal in the first minute of play, and Ridley was then ahead all the way, winning 8-3.

The hockey team to win the game which Ridley considered was their first school match lined up in this way: Goal, W. E. Carter; point, H. R. Harmer; cover point, T. B. F. Benson; forwards, J. G. Maclaren, A. W. Mackenzie (captain), G. McG. Maclaren and H. G. P. Nicholls.

The *Acta* hockey reporter recorded the game with justified pride, and added this revealing item: “Rough play was indulged in by Trinity but Ridley did their share. One notable feature was Senkler’s trick of trying to break his opponents’ toes . . . he found his toes as sore as those of anyone else.”

It was not nearly as important a game as if U.C.C. or T.C.S. had been their victim, but it still gave great satisfaction to the resolute hockey enthusiasts in their struggle for recognition.

None of Ridley’s sports had yet won this struggle, not even cricket, which would not do so until the spring of 1896. But in 1894 cricket took a long stride forward toward regular annual “round-robins” with the other preparatory schools, by a second T.C.S. match.

It was a Ridley disaster – a frightful calamity – and to make things even worse it was inflicted on Ridley's First XI before almost half the entire school population who had gone to Toronto for the game, plus many visitors. The Old Boys were bitterly disappointed; they had thought the orange and black would do much better than in 1892. Instead, they saw the Ridleian cricketers dismissed for a pitiful 6 and 12 in two innings, while T.C.S. scored 96 in their first.

There would have been no consolation in knowing this dismaying loss had historic if unhappy significance. It was the lowest score Ridley was ever to record in the long series of annual cricket matches between T.C.S. and Ridley which now began and which are still being waged. By 1959 it had become a 65-year-long series of matches, unbroken even by the epidemics which interrupted football. Never again was Ridley to suffer such a thumping defeat. (*Postscript*: In 1895 Ridley lost again to T.C.S. by an innings and 20, which at least was an improvement. They lost for the third time in a row in 1896, but with still greater progress in evidence for this proved to be a notable cricket year for Ridley.)

The hockey games' report had revealed *Acta Ridleiana* was back, which alone was enough to make the year important. The Old Boys at once began helping with contributions, the first being Pop Anderson, writing about old Ridleians in a rough-house called a university "election":

"The wonderfully agile scrapper with bared back displaying muscles that are a perfect caution is our old Socker Kingstone; near him is Don Macdonald. Stanny Gzowski does good work yonder; Fatty Perry is beneath that mass of apparently wrangling fighters; Pop Anderson is there in the corner losing flesh visibly; Toothpick Macdonald is here – all these old Ridleians and good university men."

It is obvious that even in Ridley's first years, the School was sending to Canadian universities and to others in England, men who were outstanding from the time they matriculated. Kingstone was shortly an outstanding half-back of the championship Varsity football team of '95; Frank Perry was another noted footballer; and each one of the others named by Pop Anderson helped found the conviction in Canadian universities that the coming of a Ridleian freshman was a signal that an important man had arrived. It was a high Ridley repute in athletics which Ridley's boys in the passing years always tried to hold and embellish, if their scholastic status was slower to gain recognition.

The revival of *Acta Ridleiana* had been at the Headmaster's earnest wish. The re-start as a quarterly was made under Mr. Williams; his chief aide was Julian Street, destined to literary fame in the United States. Street's forte was humour, but he also designed several *Acta* covers, and after he left Ridley not only sent contributions for years but acted as counsellor to many a young

Ridleian with ambitions to write. In his honour, two annual prizes for contributions to *Acta* are still presented. To acknowledge the gratitude due to Julian Street an 1894 example of his work follows:

TRUE ROMANCE

The sun was setting, and its crimson light shone like fire over the water to where on the sandy beach sat a young couple in deep conversation. The young man was a romantic-looking fellow, and his feelings seemed to be at this time overflowing.

Stopping for a short time in his conversation with her, his thoughts seemed to be too much for him, and with her parasol he traced upon the sands the words, Agnes, I love thee! There was silence for a moment, the maiden blushed, held down her head, and took his hand, and the only sound was the rippling of the little swells upon the sand.

One tiny wave, more enterprising than its fellows, rippled up the beach to where those words were written on the sand, and, alas, when the water receded, the sand showed no signs of the fond words which had been there. Neither of the couple spoke for a moment, until he, trembling in his excitement, broke out, Darling, what would I not do for you? With your parasol I traced upon these fickle sands the words, "Agnes, I love thee!" and the angry little waves came rippling up and washed away the lines; but, dearest, one word from you, and I would climb the highest Alpine peak, and dip the stateliest pine thereof in the flaming crater of Vesuvius, and with it trace in fiery letters upon the gigantic cliffs of Eternity, so that the whole world might see those magic words, "Agnes, I love thee", and I'd like to see any blamed little wave come up and wash THAT out!

— Julian Street

As usual, Ridley planned her 1894 Annual Games well in advance for the Queen's Birthday period. There were always two or three requests from parents for a special holiday for their sons, but this time the number was extraordinarily large, especially from Toronto parents. The reason was not disguised. The Ontario Jockey Club was now running the Queen's Plate at Toronto's Woodbine on the 24th of May, and several parents frankly said they were requesting time-off for their sons in order to attend the races in a family party.

The Headmaster would have none of that; he was not in the least adverse to scolding parents if he felt they needed it, and he considered they now did. On May 15, 1894, he penned a bit of a sermon to the parents:

"I . . . suggest to parents that it is not wise to allow boys to return home for the purpose of attending horse races. . . . It is most unwise to take boys to places where they are brought into contact with what may be harmless for their elders, but certainly is not so for them. To see gambling going on is for them to long to take part in it. I have some difficulty now in keeping this initial form of gambling out of the school absolutely. Knowing the frightful evils to which this habit tends I suggest to parents the wisdom of aiding me in every way to keep their sons free from contact with habits which may become very disastrous later in life."

Apparently, this stunner failed to have the desired squelching effect, for a few years later he was writing even more sternly: "I most earnestly protest against boys going home for the 24th May. . . . For boys to expect to go home from Friday until the following Thursday is preposterous. I cannot maintain the efficiency of the school if parents are thus easily led to gratify the desire of their sons for holidays. . . ."

Such communications to parents cannot add to a Headmaster's popularity, at least not with those who deserve the reprimand. Apparently, the Reverend Mr. Miller felt this matter was so important he must take a firm stand, instead of "sitting on a fence like a petrified wren".

The Headmaster was more amiable about granting time away at Thanksgiving, though there could be family parties attending the fall racing meets at several Ontario race-tracks. It was not examination time, however. So many boys usually went home at Thanksgiving that the School felt almost as empty and lonely as it did at Christmas. There was recompense in 1894, however, for those left behind – in feasting.

After seeing their friends off at the Grand Trunk station, the stay-at-homes strolled back for tea, laid on with a flourish by the Matron. ("For this meal only twenty-eight boys appeared instead of ninety-two. Instead of the customary humble repast the tables groaned under heavy burdens of plates of cakes and cookies to supplement the oyster soup, chicken and similar delicacies.") That night, they searched out the most comfortable beds, and next day a traditional Canadian Thanksgiving dinner – turkey and all the fixings – was served at noon. It was topped at midnight by a huge illegal feast held in the *Top Flat*, where donations from twenty-eight homes were assembled, including several whole smoked turkeys and boxes of imported candies, taffies and glazed nuts. They gorged. The quantities the boys were still putting away at 1.00 a.m. made the watchman say he couldn't believe his eyes. (He was enticed, or bribed, to play shut-eye sentry – with both eyes.)

THE football season of '94 began in frustration but ended in a glorious release of school pride, aided by the Old Boys. The entire School spoke with disgust of the manners of both Parkdale and Upper Canada for lacking the courtesy to reply to Ridley challenges, and they did not think much of T.C.S. for defaulting at the last moment. But they played a fierce tie-game, 6 all, against Trinity II, lost to Hamilton *Victorias* 9-1 in four inches of snow, and then a match with the Old Boys made up for everything. They lost 6-5, but a scrumptious dinner and a memorable evening followed with the spur which the Old Boys always gave to school spirit a glorious thing to watch and hear.

The final athletic event of 1894 was the third annual Cross-Country Run on December 8, staged in a cold rain. A new five-mile course circling the College was laid out, with W. E. H. Carter beating twenty-two other seniors, and H. L. Hoyles taking the junior race over twenty-six starters, and nearly that many muddled, barbwire-scratched finishers. The Cross-Country was still run by voluntary starters, and was not yet the semi-compulsory all-school event it became later.

That night the Ridley tradition of the Cross-Country Supper was born. This first menu was based on oysters, with many a *RIDLEY, RIDLEY, R-I-D-L-E-Y* and no less than ten toasts. It was so hugely enjoyed they knew this was an excellent innovation to kindle school spirit and enliven school life. A habit of holding Form Suppers grew from it at once, with often very little to use as an excuse, and for a time these also seemed about to become a school custom. Perhaps they were too frequent, or too close together, because after four or five years the enthusiasm of authority seemed to cool. Shortly they were held only occasionally. But not the Cross-Country Supper; it was held annually for so many years it justifiably entered the category of a time-honoured Ridley tradition.

The books being read at Ridley during these years provide a valuable impression. A standing complaint heard from Old Boys about this Ridley period is that no one seemed to see a newspaper at the School. But there were many periodicals, and it is doubtful if they grumbled at the time or noted the lack of newspapers. In 1894, Sherlock Holmes was declared "spiff", because reading mystery and detective stories was "the proper caper". G. A. Henty, Rudyard Kipling and Robert Louis Stevenson were in great demand. In order of Ridleian popularity, judging by the boys' book purchases, then came these authors: Richard Harding Davis, Brander Mathews, Maxwell Gray, Charles Read, Wilkie Collins and Stanley J. Weyman. Where did some of those authors go? ("Trilby might have been at the top of the list except for the high tariff rate of 75¢ which is put upon each copy – we must wait for that sort of lux until prices go down.")

The library was gradually being enlarged through gifts from Old Boys and

friends of Ridley, and the Headmaster's personal interest in its good influence included a check on the quality of books accepted. The requests for light mystery and adventure tales looked top-heavy to him, perhaps because of his ceaseless effort to instill into his happy-go-lucky boys a fascination in the search for knowledge. He instigated a system of required reading of more profound books. With satisfaction, he watched this working; reading of philosophy and biography increased, with taste for it whetted.

It was just another part of the developing Ridley as the School was moulded into the shape it would carry through all the wonderful years which lay ahead. Ridley College would be polished and refined a little in its pattern and policies; it would grow constantly and physically would become unrecognizable, but the founding and the consolidation were now done, and even the shaping was far forward.

7

The Difficult Years

"It was often pitifully small, but the balance of the annual profit and loss statement was never written in red ink."

THE familiar strong impact on Canadian impressions by events on the American scene must explain why many of us now think of the Gay Nineties as an era of lavish spending and high revelry. Unhappily, the spectacular industrial expansion prior to 1900, which was accompanied by frenzied financial manipulations and bacchanalian high carnival, occurred largely in the United States. The tall tales about America's blustering coming-of-age party with its flamboyant flaunting of new wealth were told, it is true, in big headlines in Canadian newspapers throughout the Gay Nineties, but there was nothing come-easy, go-easy about either money or morals in Canada. There was no Bet-a-million Gates north of the border, no Flora Dora revues in the opera houses of Canada's quiet little cities. Instead, the neighbour to the north faced a bleak business depression. Its realm of finance took a scared hold on its reserves; the fields of industry and trade suffered severe contraction; and Canadians worked longer and harder for less, with tightened belts and sometimes deprivation.

Education, of course, is an inevitable early victim of economic recessions, and all educational progress in Canada was abruptly halted. Higher education was fortunate to be able to hold its position, and not to deteriorate seriously, but many country schools were closed through inability to pay the teacher. Privately financed schools such as Ridley were hit hardest of all; they suffered severe restriction from shrunken fees and a withering-away of normal financial help just when it was needed.

Ridley was lucky to hold most of the ground she had been able to gain but during the next four years (1895-8) the boys' college, so newly established, experienced the most difficult period of her first thirty-five years. In a sense, the School's situation was much more precarious than it was to be in the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Several subscribers for stock who had been helpful to Ridley had to forfeit their shares through inability to respond to rather desperate calls for cash.

At one point the masters agreed to accept a reduction in salary, as costs were pared to the bare essentials. Their annual stipend was not large in the first place. Fees were reduced, and in some instances the amounts parents could afford to pay were accepted.

The school attendance records reveal the stress. The annual calendars of those years listed all who attended even for a day or a week, so they are misleading in terms of paid-up term boarders. After levelling off at about 85 for the 1892-3 period, the number of full-term boarders dwindled to the 70-mark by 1895-6, and a registration of 80 did not recur until after 1900. Ridley's fortunes paced the four bleak years in Canadian industry and trade, 1895 to 1898 inclusive for her boarders were at their lowest ebb in these years since 1889. They would never be so few again.

The extent of the strain on Ridley's finances is illustrated by one surprising innovation decided upon by the Board after weathering the worst of it between 1895 and 1898. In the latter year the Directors offered an honorarium (polite term for a commission) of twenty dollars to anyone who obtained a new, full-time student. The heated debates, even acrimony, between those who felt this was not a proper thing for an educational institution to do, and those who were only concerned with Ridley's survival, are not difficult to imagine. It was a drastic measure, very close to one of panic, and certainly quite unlike the long standing offer of an honorarium of ten dollars to anyone connected with Wycliffe who might send along a new Ridley student.

In contrast to this seeming hint of desperation is the remarkable truth that throughout this rough economic period in Canada, with education one of the most helpless victims, Bishop Ridley College not only survived but remained fully solvent each year. By astute financial policies, supported by excellent school management by the Headmaster, which someone described as holding "a touch of genius or even magic", the Board was able to show that the School had eked out a surplus for each annual report. It was often pitifully small, but the balance of the annual profit and loss statement was never written in red ink.

The most discouraging feature was the forced postponement of physical improvements and expansion, even of modest enlargement of the Headmaster's personal project, the school library. Mr. W. G. Gooderham later made a wonderful contribution to it, or the library would have suffered seriously from fatigue and malnutrition.

How closely the Headmaster watched expenses was evident in the concise report he had the bursar compile each month. It seems a strange role for a scholar, but he was careful always to be in a position to spot at once the slightest rise in costs of any phase of operations. It may be interesting to know the running costs of a fully staffed school of about 80 boarders in the Nineties. Here were Ridley's expenses for January, 1898:

General

Salaries (maintenance)	\$550.	
Servants' wages	172.	
Advertising	17.35	
Contingencies	37.20	
Insurance and Taxes	20.00	
Repairs	24.31	\$820.86

Fuel, Water, Gas

Coal and Wood	91.50	
City water	8.00	
Gas	30.27	\$129.77

Groceries and Provisions

Meat	182.58	
Market	103.66	
Groceries	55.33	
Milk	36.00	
Bread and Flour	44.87	\$419.44

Total	—	\$1,370.07
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If every other expense was closely watched, there was no skimping with the table; the food was plain but plentiful, and the boys did not notice the slightest deterioration in their meals so perhaps nothing was missing. There was no limit to the amount of milk a boy could have; it was in large pitchers on the table for all meals. It was in the postponement of repairs and the curtailment of all frills that Ridley practised stern frugality.

Ridley remained, however, in a better position than most Canadian educational institutions, and before the economic revival was fully under way, the College was planning expansion.

The formal deliberations of the Board were very serious, yet there was unmistakable evidence of their confidence in 1896 when the Directors decided to offer the first Ridley scholarships for the 1897-8 period. They were for the sum of \$50 per annum, one tenable for three years and one for four, open to boys under fifteen years of age. In this action, there was certainly no hint of pessimism about the future.

The Board still permitted the St. Catharines' Committee considerable leeway in making decisions on local matters. This group was comprised of the President, the Rev. Rural Dean Armitage, Judge Senkler and the Headmaster, with Mr. J. H. Ingersoll joining it in 1899. The full Board reserved the right to check on all expenditures, and the Headmaster discovered this was not the mere formality he had supposed when he ordered drainage work done on the cricket field without prior approval of the cost. It was paid, but under protest from one or two. Perhaps the Board grew a little jealous of the scope the St. Catharines group was giving itself as more and more responsi-

bility seemed to move into their hands after 1894. Eventually (1900) a by-law was proposed to fix, actually to curtail their powers. It was voted down.

In 1895, some aspects of school administration were considered by the full Board, in addition to its normal watch on overhead. They wrote letters to bereaved families of founders whose ranks were thinning now, and worried that the Headmaster and his family did not live within the precincts of the School. Many suggestions had been mulled over, including the idea of renting Mrs. Mack's house and of having plans drawn for a new headmaster's residence.

This might have been built in 1895 if the financial situation had not vetoed it. Instead, the Board contented itself with congratulating Headmaster Miller on publication of his *Studies in Ethics*, a scholarly work which won considerable immediate approval from the more progressive Canadian educators.

The truth was that *Studies in Ethics* by J. O. Miller, intended as a supplement to the teaching of morals in Canada's public and high schools, came as a surprise. The extensive book reviews for a work which was written for the small, specialized audience of educators below the university level, seem astonishing until it is realized that the author was far in the lead in such proposals. It was this which intrigued the book reviewers. That the principal of small Bishop Ridley College at St. Catharines, Ont., should propose teaching in morals as a supplement, not a replacement, of the normal subjects in Canadian public and high schools, brought to the thoughtful author almost unanimous applause. Particularly appreciated were his symbolic and anecdotal illustrations which simplified such philosophical subjects as Duty, Obedience, Courage, Justice, Courtesy, Industry and Conscience. They would first arrest the attention, and then secure the sympathetic understanding of Canadian boys.

Such a book was a complete stranger to all other texts in use in Canadian schools and it made its mark. It was at once adopted as a text by such institutions as Rothesay College, N.B., and by Ridley, of course, and aroused surprising comment in educational publications. "Why not have a place in school for discussion of such topics?" asked the *Educational Journal*, adding: "We have long been convinced that one of the serious defects in our Public School system is the want of adequate provision for systematic moral training."

The Headmaster had already started work on another book, which was to be a selection of stories on Canada's heroic early explorers in an attempt to bolster Canadian nationalism.

Otherwise, 1895 was marked for the Miller family by provision of a larger home on Ontario Street, directly behind the School. They left their tiny cottage on Duke Street well before the end of the year.

Perhaps the Millers' moving day inspired the Headmaster to try yet again

(he had lost track of the number of attempts) to persuade Tommy, the cabman, to sell his "Nesbitt Estate" to Ridley. Where the money would be found is a mystery; perhaps Mr. Miller intended to return to his fund-raising role of 1888 to unearth it. He would have made any sacrifice for, by this time, Tommy's house, barn, haystack and manure pile, practically at the College's side-door, were considered a blotch on the fair face of Ridley, a high-smelling eye-sore and an attraction for flies, rats and unpleasant remarks from visitors.

It was wasted effort. Tommy was still stubbornly deaf to either offers or entreaties. He even ignored a plea in *Acta* –

*"O, Tommy's mansion's a beautiful place,
But sorry I am it is there.
So, here's to Old Tommy! I wish he would move,
But old Mr. Nesbitt don't care.*

*"The estate comprises a stable and barn,
A rickety house and a hay stack;
Now, Tommy, be generous, and leave us more room
For a new tennis court and a race track.*

*"He's got hacks, but all broken, they're not worth a cent,
He's got horses, a brown and a dapple;
Now move, my friend Tommy, and leave us some space
For a new tennis court and a chapel."*

THE boys were now so immersed in cricket that a disparager of their game, whether in ignorance of its fine points or not, was looked upon with deep Ridleian disdain. They were never more withering than when cricket was adversely compared to rounders (now called baseball). However, such aspersions had to be risked by a Ridley invasion of baseball-mad Buffalo. It was of course inviting aspersions, for non-cricket-playing Buffalonians are legion, but Ridley had played and defeated a Buffalo cricket eleven by six wickets on their own ground on May 15, and the return match was scheduled for the 25th. A large group of Ridley supporters followed the team over the river.

Unfortunately, several Ridley boys heading for the game became lost in Buffalo. They were forced to ask strangers: "Where is the cricket game being played, please?"

One Ridleian started with the station master, who asked wonderingly: "Crickets? What is crickets?"

A policeman said he thought a cricket was a bug. Several people swore they had never even heard of a game called cricket. One supposed it was one

of those fancy foreign card games but he was sure no one in Buffalo played it. An iceman was an improvement; he said it was probably played in some gymnasium or other, but he didn't know where.

The now desperate and indignant Ridleian next asked a street-car conductor if he had seen anything of his cricket team. He had; he related at length, with loud guffaws (for the benefit of his passengers) just how this was: "On my last trip about fifteen young gentlemen got on, all carrying grips, and in a large blue one I noticed some most peculiar things. There were pads the size of your leg (guffaw), some rubber things (guffaw), and a number of sticks – a flat thing, not like a baseball bat, but more like a paddle. (Guffaw) Why, a woman could hit a ball a mile with a bat like that." (Guffaw)

But at least he helped find the cricket field. The Ridleian then heard urchins at the gate making remarks. "It's a plasterers' picnic," guessed one.

Another said: "Hully gee! What are they playin'? Where's the diamond?"

A third exclaimed disgustedly: "Look at the feller making a windmill out of his arm."

The cricket-loving Ridleians did not exactly take to Buffalo, but if its citizens generally knew nothing of the game, they had several elevens in their midst. Ridley won again, but it was a good game. They then played Buffalo return games each spring for several years, seldom neglecting to enquire if they still practised in such seclusion that baseball-Buffalo did not know they were there.

Students of Canadian and Ridley cricket will be struck by the tremendous advance in the game since the low scoring matches of 1895, not only by Ridley elevens, but wherever cricket was being played. In Canada, cricket was still in its beginnings. In this year Mr. Williams held high batting average of the Ridley team: 7.4, which reads like a bowling average. The team's scoring average for the thirteen innings played was only 45.5 per game, yet they won four of their nine matches.

The young School's cricketers had to be trained from scratch, and this was taking time. Ridley's boys seldom had any prior knowledge of the game; a new boy who had held a cricket bat in his hand before he did so on Ridley's campus was a rarity. This would remain true even in the 1950s, but by then good coaches were always available. In these years an experienced cricket coach was difficult to find in Canada. In addition, Ridley had less than a hundred boys in the Nineties among whom cricketers could be found and developed.

Under such circumstances, Ridley's cricket was actually doing quite well.

They had a specific target, a secret ambition: to build a cricket team which could master the XI of Trinity College School, the acknowledged birth-place of cricket in the Canadian preparatory schools. In 1895 T.C.S. had drubbed Ridley unmercifully, by an innings and twenty runs, the worst beating Ridley

suffered in the season, so winning over the cricket giant still seemed like asking for an impossibility. But the great day when Ridley would be the cricket giant-killer was far closer than even the Headmaster dared to hope, and he was the most optimistic of all Ridleians.

It did not happen in 1896, but their batting averages began to rise, and under cricket captain A. J. Hills the team played such sound cricket that it was obvious the quality of Ridley's play was improving very rapidly. This was not seen in their victories won; they had only six wins against seven defeats, but it was the atmosphere of their games that counted. Ridley's cricket spirit caught fire in 1896, and perhaps for the first time the whole School became cricket conscious.

This stemmed from a wonderful game against Upper Canada College. It was not just because Ridley was meeting U.C.C. for the first time on the cricket field that this encounter was so notable, or even because the match heralded years of great cricket rivalry between the two schools. (The sixty-fourth annual U.C.C.-Ridley cricket match was played in 1959.) The great inspiration in the game was born in a combination of sustained excitement, a spectacular finish, and a gesture of fine sportsmanship by Upper Canada which reflected the traditional spirit of the game itself.

On the Saturday before the U.C.C. match, the supporters of the Rosedale XI, who were playing Ridley that day, predicted that Upper Canada would even beat T.C.S. this year. As Ridley had just been beaten again by T.C.S., though not nearly as badly as in the previous year, this estimate of Upper Canada's strength induced little confidence in the School XI. But Ridley was imbued with the spirit that refuses to feel defeated until the last man is out.

It is not possible to impart an adequate impression of the prolonged excitement of Ridley's Old Boys and experienced cricketers who were fortunate enough to watch this U.C.C.-Ridley match. Its excitement mounted until it was nearly unbearable. Near the end, an Old Ridleian exclaimed, "Agonizing, isn't it?" meaning the tension which lasted until the last Ridley batsman, who was fighting the clock, had stepped forward and swung.

He hit for the boundary, and won!

Ridley's supporters, weak from the strain, were lightheaded with delight. ("I tried to cheer, but I only croaked.") It was that kind of game, and victory. Ridley had won by three wickets.

The play went this way: Upper Canada made 92 in their first innings, which was a lot for the low-scoring Ridley team to equal, but Ridley then made 73 for 9, which they somehow managed to turn into 86 at the fall of their tenth wicket. They were only 6 runs down after the first innings, but time was going to be a factor.

At 5.45 p.m. Upper Canada went in to bat for their second innings, more as a matter of form than anything else. Then the complexion of play suddenly

attered. Captain Hills for Ridley took two wickets in his first over. Alec Mackenzie, who was still considered a better bowler and fielder than he was a batsman, followed with a third wicket in his first over. As Ridley's hopes rose and rose, their bowlers kept stumps flying. Seven U.C.C. men were out for 8 runs. The whole side was out for 35 runs! Suddenly Ridley saw they could win.

But it was now seven o'clock, and time to call the game if Upper Canada said so. With fine sportsmanship, Upper Canada's captain agreed to continue to play until 7.50.

Fifty minutes for 42 runs? It was far from impossible!

Ridley was warmly appreciative of the gesture, but it still meant they had those runs to make to win, and they must play under the pressure of the time-keeper's inexorable watch. Upper Canada kept the code; they played smartly, giving Ridley her chance.

Ridley made it – 45 runs for 7 wickets! – with their last batsman hitting one high and far with less than a minute to go. (The batting hero remains unhappily unidentified.)

It was one of those games with an amazing finish which occur only at long intervals. Its most inspiring episodes were told and retold for years with nothing, of course, lost in the telling. The gracious act of the U.C.C. captain in offering to play the extra time was also mentioned for years at Ridley. As their cricket reporter said at the time: "The true sportsmanship spirit shown by the U.C.C. captain in consenting to play until 7.50 is most highly appreciated, and will not be soon forgotten." (*Postscript*: It was remembered again in the distant Twenties when another somewhat similar famous Ridley game was played, this time against St. Andrew's.)

Following a one-innings Old Boys' match, to wind up the cricket season on June 26, which the School won by 2 wickets and 100 runs, Mrs. Miller gave an At Home close to the cricket ground in a marquee set up for shade, tea and other refreshments. The Reverend Mr. Hodgins said goodbye before leaving to be editor of the *Evangelical Churchman* at Toronto, and the Headmaster and Mr. Williams announced that they were saying farewell to the cricket team as active players.

It was not by agreement that 1896 marked the last year in which masters played with Ridley's first cricket team, because masters continued to play occasionally with the elevens of other schools. The cricket reporter commented at the end of the 1896 season: "Mr. Miller and Mr. Williams have not done much batting to speak of during the season. Mr. Miller's 15 not out against Rosedale, and Mr. Williams' 33 against Buffalo being their only noteworthy performances." But they were not dropping out because they could not add strength. Ridley's team batting average had nearly doubled over that of 1895, but the highest individual average was still only 13.5. A 36

by Hills against Welland was the top score, so Mr. Williams' 33 loomed importantly. Also, *The American Cricket Annual* said Ridley would have been in a bad way for bowlers in 1896 had it not been for Mr. J. O. Miller. The Headmaster undoubtedly felt that Ridley's first cricket team had improved so much, with a very strong second XI coming behind them, that it was time for the boys to stand alone.

There was another unusual feature to that cricket tea party. A large number of Havergal girls were "imported" for the occasion, through the courtesy of Mr. F. Nicholls of the Board of Directors. The girls arrived while the School was batting.

"They gave a splendid example of an inaudible college call," said the cricket reporter. "We should have one."

This was preliminary to a touch of sarcasm about the alacrity with which the Old Boys appointed themselves escorts and appropriated all the girls. ("We owe a great deal of gratitude to Mr. Nicholls for importing such a large number of young ladies from Toronto for our (or their) special benefit.")

The banner cricket year for Ridley in the long stretch between 1890 and 1911 when the School's great turn came in cricket, was in 1897, when Alex Mackenzie, cricket captain, scored Ridley's first century; when Ridley turned giant-killer and did the impossible – defeated the mighty XI of Trinity College School – and when they won eleven of the thirteen matches they played. The first and second teams together won the first sixteen matches played by Ridley during the season.

Ridley was a cricket school at last!

In one sense, the defeat of T.C.S. had to take second place against the excitement of Ridley's first century. Alex Mackenzie, who now began to emerge as a terrific batsman – "the best bat and best fielder the College has ever had" – achieved the feat against Rosedale Cricket Club. He was 103 not out.

Not only that, Ridley scored 200 runs for 6 wickets against Rosedale's 35, which was the highest total score by a school XI in Canada to date.

There were telegrams of congratulations for Mackenzie from distant Old Boys, and from Hon. Sec. J. E. Hall of the Ontario Cricket Association. Mr. Harold Wilson presented the cricketer son of Sir William Mackenzie with the finest bat in his store.

Cricket in Canada was still so young that a century was a notable event. (It would still be a notable feat as late as 1920, but not thereafter; the skill of Canadian cricket improved.) Mr. Hall had already declared that Ridley's cricket was improving faster than any other school's, and *The American Cricket Annual* was even more complimentary about Ridley's advance.

The XI was going so well that Ridley easily defeated Upper Canada for the second year in a row; they won on the first innings by 47 runs.

Their great feat of the year, defeating T.C.S., “the stronghold of young Canadian cricket”, took place on Rosedale’s grounds in Toronto on June 4. To the astonishment of everyone but the excited Ridleians, they won by an innings and 16. Mackenzie was again the heroic batsman, with 69.

Because this game has high place in Ridley’s cricket history, the record of the first innings at least should be preserved –

T.C.S. (First Innings)

	Runs
Strathy, b. Cooke	1
McCorkey, b. Kerr	7
Baldwin, c. Mackenzie, b. Kerr	3
Saunders, b. Cooke	3
Duggan, c. Hoyles, b. Kerr	2
Turner, b. Cooke	4
Piercy, b. Kerr, c. Mackenzie	12
Syer, b. Cooke	0
Hindes, run out	6
Taylor, b. Cooke	2
Patterson, not out	1
Extras	3
	<hr/> 44

RIDLEY (Only Innings)

A. W. Mackenzie, c. Saunders, b. Syer	69
W. C. J. Doolittle, b. Hindes	8
N. Kerr, b. Syer	0
G. M. Mair, c. Duggan, b. Syer	0
J. R. N. Cooke, b. Hindes	15
R. D. Gurd, b. Syer	2
A. E. Dalton, b. Hindes	1
L. Price, run out	5
C. E. Bourne, b. Syer	5
H. L. Hoyles, b. Saunders	6
F. W. Baldwin, not out	6
Extras	2
	<hr/> 119

In Trinity’s second innings, they could only score 59, with Ridley an easy winner by an innings and 16 runs.

On the season, Russell Cooke held the best bowling average, 4.85, with Alex Mackenzie next with 6.06. Mackenzie was far in the lead in batting; he scored a total of 423 runs for an average of 35.25. A remarkable point in his batting will be evident to all experienced cricketers: he had been the first man up in each of the thirteen innings played.

Despite this wonderful year, it became usual in later Ridley times to speak

of the Nineties as Ridley B.C. – Before Cricket. They meant before 1911, when Ridley became the cricket giant of the Canadian preparatory schools and cricket championships began to be won with monotonous regularity. It is true that there was now a serious let-down in Ridley play and cricket fortunes, but 1897 would have been a great cricket year in any Ridley era.

The sharp deterioration in Ridley's cricket after 1897 showed up at once; 1898 was a dismal year for both cricket and rugby. Ridley's first eleven won only two matches of nine played, and some of the boys, who had been ardent worshippers in 1897, were caustic critics when they lost to both Upper Canada and T.C.S. Before the next cricket season rolled around one or two masters had made pointed remarks in class about over-confidence and, once, even about the tendency of modern youth to grow too big for their breeches, even if made of flannel. The truth was, the 1898 XI had lost too many old colours; besides, they were playing in the shadow of a giant.

The reverse had its good reaction; a host of younger players had fresh hopes of winning their cricket colours; competition was fierce to be named to the School team of '99. That could only augur well.

WHERE DO THE OLD BOYS GO?

THE Easter issue of *Acta* for '95 was so treasured by Old Boys it probably constituted the inspiration for the extensive reports on Old boys which the school journal carried after the first twenty-five years, and even for the production of *Tiger*, the Old Boys' mailing piece, produced many years later by Terry Cronyn ('13-'20) after he became secretary-treasurer of the Old Boys' Association. By excellent reportorial detective work in tracing down present occupations and whereabouts, the editors of *Acta* in 1895 gave advice on a total of forty-seven former Ridley boys. Where had the Old Boys gone? Nineteen were still students in universities in Canada, the United States and England, and if the banks led the business groups (twelve Ridleians), others were engaged in such varied pursuits as lemon ranching in California (Alex Alexander) and mineral oil bottling in Colorado (Harry Carter) to travelling in Germany (Walt Caldecott).

The students were proud of their paper. The College had a fine exchange list, giving the boys the following collegiate journals to read: the *College Times*, *Varsity*, the *Owl*, the *McMaster Review*, the *Forsythe Journal*, the *Sunbeam*, the *What-Not*, the *Collegiate*, *Athletic Life*, the *St. John's College Journal* and the *University School Record*. The boys would look over these journals of other educational institutions, and with fine Ridleian conceit would declare *Acta Ridleiana* the most distinguished of all, not only in name but in literary quality.

Perhaps the editor of *Acta* did not know of this high regard; in any event, he waxed tart with students who had complained about insufficient "spicy personals" in recent issues. He declared every member of the *Acta* Committee (H. G. Williams, chairman; R. M. MacLeod, A. C. Black, H. L. Hoyles, S. C. Norsworthy and L. Price) had hardened their hearts and adopted the motto: "Let there be gall in my ink." He then spoke witheringly of some fellows who really want "a toy book with nursery rhymes and coloured pictures of Puss-in-Boots".

Throughout the four depression-years the Board continued to hear suggestions on College improvements, even on expansions, and to make a few themselves. They were acted upon only if they did not cost money. But they were growing scornful of the pessimists of little faith who said such abortive discussions were of no more use than whistling past graveyards, so they went right on planning for the future and calling for reports.

The propensity of young Ridleians to slip out of the School at night, and their incurable habit of midnight raiding, kept authority harried and may have inspired a special report by Vice-President Hoyles. It was about bedroom-ware, housekeeping and a hodge-podge of things, but he also reported on school discipline. He recommended that –

- (a) the Headmaster or Senior House Master should inspect the College daily; that
- (b) the Headmaster shall see there are no less than two masters in the building in the evening, and that
- (c) the Headmaster at least once a week should sleep in a bedroom set aside for him – "on uncertain nights."

These precautions for internal security – behaviour – and schemes to nab miscreants, may have checked the nocturnal adventurers and inter-form feudists a little, with some captures, but sudden raids on unsuspecting dormitories continued, with a little additional care by the advance scouts. Schoolboy ingenuity still devised escape and return routes at night. As for the Headmaster's secret night in the school, it was sheer waste of time and trouble. The college telegraph gave instant warning, sometimes even before he had arrived. (The housekeeper's changed routine was the give-away.)

A serious attempt was also made to end the exciting indoor sport of "corridor curling" which had been inaugurated during the first winter. They used their granite bedroom vessels as stanes, and always seemed to start when the school was particularly peaceful and still. The clatter and clangour of the banging "stances" caused each curling match to be very brief, yet it was not the noise which affronted authority; it was the chips and dints in their battered night vessels. One day an order was issued: granite ware would be replaced at once by crockery; each vessel would be clearly identified with

the owner's monogram; all breakages would be paid from the owner's pocket-money.

The horrified curlers disgustedly declared this was grossly unfair, especially when some fiendish fellows still occasionally practised with their crockery stanes, with fatal results. But organized bonspiels were definitely ended.

Otherwise, there was little change in Ridleian behaviour, mischief-making or baiting of masters during 1897 and 1898.

The boys would have vociferously applauded some items in the Board's reports if they had known of them; it was just as well they didn't, as they were for the future. Recommended were –

- A dressing room with shower-bath for the use of boys following afternoon exercise.
- A cinder path around the cricket field.
- Another new float for the ferry service over the canal.
- The employment of a professional cricketer by the season.
- Construction of a winter playroom.
- Construction of a covered hockey and skating rink.

All this had to wait for better times; just slight extra expenditure would jeopardize the delicate bank balance of a school which must rely on only seventy full-term boarders, with a few extra for single terms.

HEADMASTER Miller visited the British Isles in 1896, and his report on the customs and traditions of famous English schools caused Ridley in 1897 to examine herself. The School was forming valuable traditions of her own but *Acta Ridleiana* seemed concerned –

“It has perhaps occurred now and then to our readers that Ridley has very few established customs. During his recent visit to some of the venerable public schools of England, Mr. Miller remarked a number of these unwritten laws. At Harrow, for instance, the boys all walked in the middle of the road, while the “kids” only were allowed the use of the sidewalks. We do not, even in this land of rubbers, advocate the adoption of any such custom here, at least until Canadians have learnt the art of road-making.

“At Winchester and at Christ's Hospital, the Sixth Form boys eat their meat off one side of the wooden plate, and then turn the plate over to eat the pudding. Fancy the Ridley boy doing this, who grumbles because there are no orange spoons with Sunday dessert.

“Copper Sunday has been abolished for good and sufficient reasons, and the only customs we can be said to possess now, are the New Boys' Concert and the Master's Birthday Serenade.” (The last soon died out.)

“Initiation, with other such barbarisms, has gone out with the growth of common sense, and the New Boys' Concert remains as its only relic.”

Tradition is a wonderful thing, but the Ridley boys who had very little pocket money were secretly pleased that Copper Sunday was abandoned before it became a firm tradition. They were supposed to save any large Canadian coppers to come their way, and to place them on the collection plate on a given Sunday evening. ("We never supposed it was the tonnage which caused discontinuance of Copper Sunday.")

One suggestion offered for a traditional habit was that boys below the Fifth should not be permitted to wear a stand-up collar. It should be the mark of the Fifth and Sixth. Ridley already had clothing traditions – the Ridley cap and the Christy hat on Sundays, for instance, but if the stand-up collar was worn by the Fifth and Sixth it was not claimed to be their exclusive right. A Fourth Former could wear one without penalty.

A most important Ridley custom of her first two decades was annual recognition of a famous Canadian battle, with a school holiday to mark it, which was repeated often enough to be considered a tradition of the Nineties.

October 13 was always an eagerly awaited date at Ridley in these years for it meant a combined picnic-excursion for all boys not under a detention sentence. They would walk very wary in the second week of October to be certain they would not miss the celebration of the Battle of Queenston Heights, the victory by British troops and Canadian militiamen under generals Brock and Sheaffe in the War of 1812.

To all Ridleians of these days the tall shaft on the topmost plateau of the Heights to commemorate Brock and the victory was not second as a point of interest in the area to the mighty Niagara Falls itself, which was so close along the gorge its thunder seemed to shake the monument. This was because the Headmaster saw to it that the War of 1812 was characterized as the War of Survival for Canada.

The School often took notice of the anniversaries of other great British battles – Trafalgar, Waterloo, Blenheim, Hastings, the Plains of Abraham – but Ridley's masters and boys alike made the Battle of Queenston Heights and the War of Survival their own. They knew its strategy and tactics, the historical background, the troops engaged, and the personal story of General Brock and his last battle as few other Canadians did then, or do now.

We wonder if any other Canadian school so frequently sang *Upon the Heights of Queenston one dark October day*. The song ended –

*Each true Canadian patriot
Laments the death of Brock;
Our country told its sorrow
In monumental rock.*

The boys of Ridley used to thunder out that dirge-like song on every October 12, on the eve of their excursion to the scene.

They knew that only 350 Canadian militiamen of York and Lincoln counties and a few British regulars had been holding the village and the heights above on October 12. This limited force was necessary because General Brock only had a total of 1,500 men, including a company of refugee slaves and 250 Mohawks to cover the entire length of the Niagara River, as he watched for an invasion by the powerful American forces under General Stephen Van Rensselaer. On the night of the 12th, an overwhelming force of American regulars crossed the Niagara in the dark and quickly won the towering escarpment. Ridley boys could recite the rest; they knew that General Brock, awakened in Fort George by the guns at Vrooman's Point, had rushed to the scene, rallied a small group of defenders and charged up the escarpment in broad day. He was killed by a shot near his heart as he brandished his sword at the head of his men. The boys knew that Colonel Macdonnell led a second charge, and was also killed, and that General Sheaffe, gathering some militiamen coming through from various outposts, then avenged Brock by sweeping up the heights and forcing 958 Americans to surrender, including Brigadier Wadsworth and five lieutenant-colonels. About 160 Americans were killed on the heights, with Canadian-British casualties much less.

Like the victory earlier at Detroit, the inspiring triumph at Queenston Heights had been largely a Canadian militia achievement. The young Ridleians saw how the Canadian citizen soldier even in 1812 was already becoming a sort of base for the political development of an independent Canada. It made this battle peculiarly their own, and a pleasure to study. It was not just a battle-name and a date in their history book.

The retentive memories of Old Boys of the Nineties who still lived in the late Fifties, such as Pussy Wadsworth ('90-'93), Bob Harcourt ('97-'98), Ab Taylor ('89-'90), Big Mud Hoyles ('93-'99) and Doggie Mason ('95-'01) were one of the delightful surprises of personal research for **Ridley**. Any Old Boy of the period could tell more of the War of Survival than we had learned at school or had been induced to discover. It was Big Mud (Lt.-Col. N. W.) Hoyles who emphasized by his own memory how exhaustively Ridley had studied the War of 1812, particularly Queenston and Brock. He also knew all about the aftermath:

"In July, 1813, the British Government had been quick to vote funds for a memorial to Isaac Brock. It's in St. Paul's Cathedral. I've seen it. All Canadians who visit London should go and see it; spending the time would do them good," said Big Mud.

"That magnificent shaft high above the Niagara River is a gigantic tombstone as well as a monument," he went on. "When the first column was erected in 1824 it was placed above the remains of General Brock and Colonel Macdonnell, which had been moved from Fort George cemetery where they

had been buried after the fight. One of the rebels of 1837 showed his venom by blowing it up with dynamite in 1840. If the people of the Niagara district had caught him they'd have lynched him, for pride in General Brock was very strong, and this was wanton desecration of a national hero's shrine.

"Feeling was so strong," continued Big Mud, "that when the Canadian people replaced the shaft they surpassed themselves. They erected today's column, a 190-footer, in 1859. A big part of the strength of feeling was anti-Americanism; fear of the United States was constant in Canada in those years, and the imposing height of Brock's Monument was quite likely partially inspired by a sense of defiance. It can be seen for a hundred miles inside New York State. Seen from that side in a time when the country was not built up, with the evening sun behind it, the monument must have looked like a shining challenge in a foreign country standing above a green wilderness.

"The feeling of fear and challenge in Canada toward the United States had diminished by 1895 or so, but we used to tease American boys about the monument," recalled Big Mud with a chuckle. "We'd declare it represented General Brock thumbing his nose at Washington. It was just small-boy fun, but I think we half-believed it ourselves."

Although this attitude should not be applied, the significance of the struggle on the heights of Queenston should be known by every boy in a country which has great need for greater respect for its own history. But all Canadian boys are not so fortunate as those of Ridley of these years. They had schoolmasters to tell them every detail of this fascinating frontier story but they knew that Lady Edgar was uttering a wish, not a truth, when she wrote: "Deep and strong is the current of the river that flows at its base, but not deeper or stronger than the memory of the man who sleeps below."

It should be noted that the details of the battle and the generalship of Brock and Sheaffe were not dramatized for Ridley's boys just because the scene of the battle was nearby; the Headmaster was intent on impressing Canadian history on his young Canadians, and Queenston Heights was a perfect medium because the victory there had a pronounced impact on the destiny of Canada. The School's atmosphere was English, and so was much of these Canadian times; and Mr. Miller was English-born. He always stressed the great importance of history, giving Canada's own historical development first place in attention.

The entire School would be astir early on the 13th – Queenston Heights Day – with much bustling about as picnic baskets were filled and the boys unearthed hidden sacks and pillowslips filled with chestnuts (later dried peas) as their ammunition for the day. As a rule, Mr. Miller led away a dozen or so of the more robust stalwarts who would choose to hike the thirteen miles with him.

Promptly at nine, the rest of the School would pile into three horse-drawn, open sight-seeing vans hired at Niagara Falls, and they would be away in a din of cheers. ("Down the Queenston road they flew, enveloped in clouds of dust, like the Greek charioteers of old.") When the noisy van-loads overtook Mr. Miller and the hikers, someone would yell: "When you see the whites of their eyes!" and the chestnuts would fly in a fusillade so thick some hits were certain to be scored.

After 1897, chestnuts were banned, so the boys armed themselves secretly with dried peas or other hard pellets, and pea-shooters. The drivers entered into the spirit of things and would try to pass the other vans despite a stinging hail striking drivers and horses alike.

In another year or so, an electric railway ran from St. Catharines to Queenston, at the mouth of the gorge, and the juniors would be carried on it, but the older boys in these times always travelled via "the Ridley tallyho". In the mid-Nineties sixty or more boys would be aboard, singing and pelting with pellets every St. Catharines boy, or even adult, unlucky enough to come within range. (The St. Catharines boys learned how to retaliate; they would arm themselves with over-ripe tomatoes and rotten vegetables from the canning factory, and would ambush the Ridley vans at the factory corner on the way back.)

Sometimes, Canadian militia units would re-enact the capture of the heights on the Battle's anniversary, and on one occasion Ridley's Cadet Corps took part. Normally, a few active Ridley boys entertained themselves by a "capture" of the monument – climbing the lightning rod, and entering the shaft through vents, high up. They could see the spray above the mighty falls, just around the turn in the gorge. Below, they could see the stone where Brock fell, surrounded by sight-seeing Ridleians, or Major Thairs would be explaining tactics beside the preserved 1812 trench-redoubts.

In 1897, the Ridley excursion included for the first time a ride on electric cars to Chippawa, with some boys getting their first view of the falls. This then became a regular part of the Queenston excursion.

They would all be home again in good time for a special General Brock supper which Matron Cleghorn always had ready.

RIDLEY'S HONOURS AND AWARDS

ONCE MORE the Headmaster was making the rounds to give a little talk to all boys of the School on the importance of the Gold Medal for True Manliness, and the integrity they must give to the privilege of their vote. This signalled that Prize Day was close, and also the time when each boy would seriously consider his fellows to discern the most worthy

recipient. (“I have voted in Canada’s Federal elections ever since the days of Laurier’s first election, but I never did so much soul-searching before going to the polls as I did before voting at Ridley on the Manliness Medal. More than once I chewed the end off a pencil in earnest perplexity” – *Old Ridleian*.) There was special reason for emphasis on Ridley’s premier accolade in 1897. Mr. J. Herbert Mason, a founding governor, had just added to its importance by providing a silver medal for the boy in second place in the vote for the best representative of the ideal Ridley boy.

The President’s Gold Medal for Scholastic Proficiency was also given a new role in 1897. Until then, it had denoted the Head Boy of the School, but the Governor-General’s Gold Medal for Proficiency was now inaugurated. At President Merritt’s personal request, his award was now to be for the top boy in honour matriculation standing, while the new Governor-General’s Medal would take precedence. It would designate the Head of the School in scholarship. (Today, both mean the same thing.)

For the four difficult years of the Nineties, here are the winners of the awards for character and scholarship and also for athletic prowess displayed in the annual games –

	FOR TRUE MANLINESS		HEAD OF THE SCHOOL
	Blake Gold Medal	Mason Silver Medal	(Scholastic Proficiency) President’s Medal
1895	W. E. H. Carter	–	W. E. H. Carter
1896	H. C. Griffith	–	H. C. Griffith
			Governor-General’s Medal
1897	Llewellyn Price	A. E. Dalton	Llewellyn Price
1898	A. E. Dalton	M. H. Gander	R. H. Harcourt

In these years the Headmaster’s determination to improve the track-and-field sports began to gain its reward, with a valuable assist from *Acta Ridleiana* which, in tones of well-bred indignation, scolded capable students for not taking enough interest to enter the Cross-Country or turn out with the pack for Hare and Hounds.

Honours were well spread as a rule in the annual games, but in 1898 Bull (M. H.) Gander won seven events, set four new records, and personally dominated the seniors’ programme. Four of his records (below) were still standing unbroken in 1908, which was the year Sports Day officials lost their stop-watches and measuring tapes and did not find them again until 1922. How long his times for the 100 yards and the running hop, step and jump, his distance in putting the shot actually stood is unknown. Gander’s time of .10²/₅ for the 100 definitely stood on Ridley’s records until 1924. (The record is now .10 flat, set by J. W. Matheson in 1955.)

1898 RECORDS

100 yards	.10 $\frac{2}{5}$	M. H. Gander
440 yards	.57 $\frac{1}{5}$	M. H. Gander
880 yards	2.22	M. H. Gander
120-yard hurdles	.19 $\frac{1}{5}$	M. H. Gander
Running broad jump	19.8	M. H. Gander
Running hop, step and jump	40'11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	M. H. Gander
Putting shot	38' 2"	M. H. Gander
Pole vault	8' 0"	J. H. Wade

Gander was so dominant in the long programme that he won the senior championship in 1898 by a record number of points, 41, which was not equalled for at least twenty years. (In 1897, J. H. Wade had won easily with only 28 points.) Included in 1898 were many events no longer on a Ridley's Sports Day programme: bicycle races, a fatigue race, kicking a football and throwing a lacrosse and a cricket ball, obstacle, sack and three-legged races. They were all enjoyed and often exciting.

The following were the School champions at the Annual Games for the four years, 1895 to 1898, inclusive:

TRACK-AND-FIELD CHAMPIONS, 1895-8

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Junior</i>
1895	G. M. Maclaren	N. F. Kerr
1896	G. G. Mitchell	F. W. Baldwin
1897	J. H. Wade	H. J. Erswell
1898	M. H. Gander	N. W. Hoyles

By 1898 the pattern of Ridley's life had both quickened and brightened with many innovations, some of which were permanently adopted. They were now fencing regularly and boxing a little, and there was a new interest in gymnastics.

Ridley's first Camera Club was formed in 1897 as photography rapidly became a popular hobby. Within a few weeks the club had organized a series of four competitions, with each contest attracting a veritable deluge of snapshots. Shortly after Christmas a delegation of boys paraded to Mr. Miller's study, asking permission to turn the old music room into a dark-room. Always ready to acquiesce in anything to keep the boys interested and occupied, he agreed instantly. ("The dark-room at once became as crowded as the Black Hole of Calcutta.") In course of time, very fine photography was produced, to be retained by the College. One of the most striking early photos was a view by Will Doolittle of Major Thairs' special drill squad moving at-the-double.

This was the same Doolittle who was football captain and who lost his prefectship because he could not "soak the kids who talked back". After commiserating with him, Russell Cooke borrowed his cash to go downtown

but stayed too long, and next morning found he had wrecked his prefectship, too.

Poor Doolittle and Cooke were also deprived of the honour of having their names enscribed for posterity in Ridley's annual calendar with the year's list of prefects.

In these days, the Ridley policy appeared to be to choose prefects who were noted school athletes, perhaps because it was likely to ensure respect even from the unruliest boys in the School. Those who were recorded that year all had high repute with a school team, or in the gym, or in the annual games – Casey Baldwin, Alex Snively, A. E. Dalton, H. L. Hoyles, M. H. Gander, Pete Haverson, J. E. T. Sewell and J. P. Osborne. Stiminy Stunt (H. S.) Stayner was named because the Headmaster had decided that responsibility might quell the School's most famous mischief-maker. It was a short-lived dignity; Stunt did not reform and his exuberant spirits kept getting him into trouble.

The following year, the new prefects were also athletes to a degree, even Doggie Mason despite his miniature physique. The other new prefects were G. W. Cox, A. W. Harcourt, A. S. Trimmer and H. H. Wilkinson. The latter was rated a "real brain". He was to be Head Boy in the 1900-1 period, and always topped his class. But he played on the mighty championship football team of 1899 and had the fine qualities expected of a prefect. ("To sit at the prefects' table meant sitting with the great cricketers and footballers. But they were nice to the odd lonely bookworm.") A few were top men both scholastically and in sport, such as Hoyles, Snively and Wilkinson, but athletic prowess certainly appeared to be a prerequisite to choice as a Ridley prefect. The precaution was that scholastic standing must be maintained or a prefectship could not be held.

A prefect could make a friend for life if he played "shut-eye sentry" where the pets of the game, fish and fowl fanciers were concerned. They were constantly and anxiously preoccupied with keeping their menagerie fed and healthy, without having to hide the "illegal" members of their collection from prefects as well as the masters. It was particularly tough in the winter. Ridley owned one cow and one hog on the Nesbitt "ranch"; in addition, a Ridley boy had a private partnership with Tommy in ownership of two ganders, which somehow lived through Thanksgiving. Also known to be secreted somewhere (in 1897) were a mud-turtle, a one-eyed crow, seven rabbits and five white rats. During one term, the lusty crowing of fighting cocks in a succession of early dawns revealed that four or five were secreted in a shed at the back, with a fighting main planned. There was some suspicion that Tommy the cabman was the informer, but this was a case of "not proven". The Headmaster walked in just as the first pair of fighting cocks charged each other – and it was all over before a single spur had gone home. The boys were trapped; there was no back door to the shed. This was not to be treated lightly, as both the two

owners of the cocks and the spectators discovered to their pain. ("If the Head had known how much money was wagered on that first cock fight we'd have been sent home in disgrace for at least a month, if we escaped expulsion. Most of us only bet a dime or half-a-dollar but I was stake-holder for the affluent owners of the cocks and felt like a millionaire. But no one told.")

There was a reason why Ridley's menageries were ignored if not officially condoned. When Old Boys of these years were asked what they had missed most in the severance from their family homes to live in Ridley College, they often replied succinctly: "A dog." Because the School would surely have been overrun with canines in no time, unless they were firmly barred, a boy's dog had to be left at home. There were no exceptions. Yet a boy's love of animals was sympathetically understood, and if a one-eyed crow was a poor substitute for a small boy's personal friend, a dog, it still helped.

The Firming of School Character

“. . . all the wonderful attributes of school character and their influences were becoming visible – respect for fair play, scorn of a liar, disdain for a boaster, boy-honour, self-reliance and self-respect – and all of it manifested in an intense pride in Ridley.”

IT IS THE academic pattern of a preparatory school and its results which establish its scholastic repute with parents and universities, but far more important to firm establishment and lasting success is school spirit, for that means morale, and the institution's philosophy of education, for that spells school character. And Ridley was now both discovering and illustrating how the two were linked.

It was in the smell of sweat, elation or despair of the dressing rooms of Ridley's young athletes, in the sustained tension on the cricket pitch, in the shock and struggle of her fighting teams on the rugby field, and in the excitement of hard-played games in gym or rink, that Ridley's school spirit had been first born, and was now being fostered and sustained. *Esprit de corps* unquestionably stems from the top, and this is just as true of a school as it is of a regiment. It derives from the decree which says what games will be played and how they are played, the way a sense of rivalry is injected and how the natural competitive spirit of boys is directed and encouraged. Ridley had been fortunate: a school can wait for years for great players and great teams to catch the imagination of its boys, and so to fire their spirit. First of all, Ridley was fortunate to have a headmaster who possessed an intuitive understanding of both boys and school morale and who clearly sensed from the outset that this quality called school spirit would become enveloped in his school's character, in the very nature of Ridley. In turn, the philosophy of education which had already been established as Ridley's own was fostering and powerfully supporting the morale of the school.

It should also not be forgotten that a great ally was the providential existence of Upper Canada College and Trinity College School; they not only

welcomed the competition of Ridley games but were located close enough to St. Catharines for one to help the school spirit of the other. For the younger Ridley, they had inserted almost at once an invaluable element of inter-school rivalry, but it was one which would remain a great asset in morale for all three schools for all the years ahead. When St. Andrew's was founded a few years later, the four-school athletic rivalry would begin which remains to this day a tremendous bolster to morale for each of the preparatory schools.

It was now – between 1895 and 1898 – that Ridley's school spirit can be seen taking firm hold. The will to win for the orange and black had begun to develop in her first term, but now all the other wonderful attributes of school character and their influences had become a part of Ridley's boy-morale, and were becoming visible – respect for fair play, scorn of a liar, disdain for a boaster, boy-honour, self-reliance and self-respect – and all of it manifested in an intense pride in Ridley. It would grow in intensity until it became unique; at least, in the annals of Canadian education there can hardly be a finer illustration of school loyalty than the way the Old Boys of Ridley ultimately took over the destiny of their old school almost entirely, assuming responsibility for her problems and assuring her perpetuation.

This is why this period is historically important; if it is possible to pinpoint any place where it became solidified, it is now, between 1895 and 1898.

Appearing in earlier comments are Ridley's first cricket greats and track-and-field heroes, boys like Hume Brough, Alex Mackenzie, Socker Kingstone, Billy Doolittle, Art Dalton, Llewellyn Price and Bob Gurd – cricketers all – and Charlie Lee, first winner of the Cross-Country, P. A. Vansickle, first Senior Sports Day Champion, Bull Gander and J. H. Wade, record-setting track-and-field men, with Gander one of the greatest in Ridley's first quarter-century. In early football it had been W. H. Cronyn, first rugby captain, Socker Kingstone again, Ken Dewar, George Ryckman, Alex Mackenzie again, and then the spectacular Casey Baldwin, all of them sparking school spirit and setting alight for the first time the flame of Ridley's athletic tradition. It would grow and spread with the years.

It may surprise Old Boys of recent vintage that Harry Griffith, who left Ridley in 1895 to attend Trinity University for four years, and who became a truly great Canadian football coach, is not named with Ridley's outstanding athletes of her first decade. Harry Griffith was as brilliant a student as he was a scholarly master, but his physique as a boy was slow to develop. He was a good cricket batsman in his boyhood days at Ridley and, in 1895, his last year, he made the football team, and then was quarterback for Trinity until he suffered the cartilage injury which his son Adam recalls caused his early discharge from the army in 1914. He must have loved the game even at Ridley; only a boy who was both fascinated by football and an intense student of the game could have developed his coaching skill so quickly. When he came back

to Ridley to teach in 1899, the famous Biddy Barr may have helped him as his coaching career began, but not for long. The former Varsity coach and associate of Thrift Burnside had already left Ridley, and though he came back to help with the football team for a season or two, his association with Harry Griffith was slight. The latter then left in 1907 to teach French at Trinity College and only a year later was appointed Honorary Coach of Varsity's football team. Despite the title, he was the active coach, with full responsibility. He made Canadian football coaching history in the three years, 1908 to 1911, leading Varsity to two Dominion championships, including the first winning of the Grey Cup.

It must be assumed that Harry Griffith's remarkable ability as a football coach was largely self-developed, with Ridley's football fields his first training ground. Under him, Ridley's football team won the Little Big Four Championship in 1903, 1905, and 1906, but Old Boys of these years say his skill was not appreciated until he had reached Canadian-wide renown as Varsity's coach after 1907. He then returned to Ridley bringing with him both football coaching fame and the knowledge of a keen student of the game. In the end he became as skilled a coach of cricket as he was of football, though this was also sometimes not fully appreciated. He had been cricket captain at Trinity.

In these autumns the School's future football tradition was given its base, with many of the same boys – Baldwin, Dalton, Doolittle, Gander, Wade – leading the way, valiantly supported by newer men on Ridley's football field, boys like Hugh Hoyles, Counter Norsworthy, Bob Harcourt, Pete Haverson, N. F. Kerr and many more. Ridley now moved into a wonderful rugby period.

That many of Ridley's athletes were winning colours in both rugby and cricket was only partially related to her limited boy-population. Fine natural athletes often star in a variety of games; when the day came that Ridley had more than 300 boarding boys some of them were three-colour and even five-colour men. But that the same boys could often win colours in cricket and football should silence the perennial arguments between the exponents of the two games. Cricket and rugby were each now wielding such influence in the acceleration and consolidation of school spirit that the partisans of one game could only respect the value of the other.

In opening the account of Ridley's first truly great football period, a tribute to her coaches is an obligation. Lack of coaching had been a serious early lack, but that had been overcome in 1895 and 1896 with the arrival of a new master, W. C. Mitchell, an old Varsity footballer, who began the transformation which only skilled coaching can achieve with a football team. Next came a famous coach, an historic man in Ridley's eyes. He was Mr. A. F. Barr, a junior master, fresh from coaching the great Varsity football teams of 1895 and 1896. He made football history, or at least his Ridley teams made it. He was ultimately to be the Reverend A. F. Barr, but he always remained "the great Biddy Barr"

to the School. He was followed as coach by another master, Mr. W. B. Hendry, who had to work in the shadow of a coaching giant but who ably maintained much of the football skill and power in Ridley's first teams which Biddy Barr had initiated.

All three coaches added knowledge and skill as Ridley came into her first great football era, known to her Old Boys as the time of the Three Bs – Baldwin, Barr and Burnside – the trio who, as living Old Boys of the Nineties declare, “put Ridley's football on the map”. Baldwin was the future mighty Casey Baldwin of Ridley and Varsity, who was developing fast even at fourteen and fifteen; Burnside was the Varsity football great, and friend of Ridley, who pioneered the revolution of early Canadian football into something closer to today's game; and Barr was Burnside's ardent supporter at Varsity as well as Ridley's honoured coach.

Ridley did not reach her first great football triumph without first experiencing additional heartbreaking set-backs to add to the rough early years. Even humiliating defeats had still to be borne with a good loser's cheerful fortitude.

In 1895 Ridley's football team played five school matches, losing but one to Upper Canada on their home field, 17-6, while later defeating T.C.S. at Rosedale, 17-8. They defeated Welland twice and St. Catharines Collegiate once. It was a year of promise but, in 1896, if their footballers were favoured with a short schedule they still suffered a dismaying defeat – a *débâcle* – 32-0, at the hands of Upper Canada. They defeated T.C.S., 9-7, and St. Catharines Collegiate, 6-0, but such victories could never compensate for the humiliating loss to U.C.C. They had not counted upon a win, for U.C.C. was very strong, but they had not expected such a terrible beating either.

The disheartening game had been played in a gale on the U.C.C. football field. Only five Ridley colour men of 1895 were still with the team, but excuses were no consolation. Even at this time, U.C.C. was Ridley's great football rival. Upper Canada always presented a stiff challenge to Ridley owing to its much larger student body in which to find cricketers and footballers.

The consolation for 1896 was that it made the great triumph of 1897 to come all the sweeter. In this historic Ridley sports year, the boys wearing orange and black experienced the wonderful honour of being the first of the three traditional school rivals to defeat each of the other two in both cricket and football in the same year.

There was some justification for a little extra Ridley elation in defeating Upper Canada in 1897, for at this time the aforesaid handicap in comparable school populations was serious; it would always be a factor because Ridley wisely limited her number of boarders and day-boys, but just now it was particularly sharp. It is rather remarkable that Ridley could produce football teams in this period which could match and even defeat U.C.C. because



THE SCHOOL CRICKET XI of 1896

Record: U.C.C. 92,35; B.R.C. 86,45 (won) — T.C.S. 170; B.R.C. 78,81 (lost)

Front row (l. to r.): L. Price; H. L. Hoyles, Scorer; H. C. Griffith; H. R. Harmer. *Centre:* J. R. N. Cooke; Mr. H. G. Williams; A. J. Hills, captain; the Rev. Mr. Miller; J. W. Greenhill. *Rear:* G. M. Mair; A. A. Miller; N. F. Kerr; Alex (A. W.) Mackenzie and W. C. J. Doolittle.

The
Great
Football
Team
of the
Nineties



INTER-SCHOOL CHAMPIONS, 1897

T.C.S.S. 2; B.R.C. 32 U.C.C. 10; B.R.C. 13

Front (l. to r.): F. B. Lumbers, M. Wing; Counter (S. C.) Norsworthy, scrim; J. E. T. Sewell, l. wing; F. S. Hobbs, quarter. *2nd Row* (seated): Bull (M. H.) Gander, scrim.; Mr. W. B. Hendry; W. C. J. Doolittle, captain and centre-half; Mr. Biddy (A. F.) Barr, coach; R. M. McLeod, scrim. *Third Row* (standing): Bob (R. H.) Harcourt, l. wing; A. E. Dalton, O. wing; Little Mud (H. L. Hoyles, wing; A. C. Snively, scrim; A. W. Bixel, wing; J. P. Haverson, wing. *Rear row*: C. S. J. Trench (sub.); J. H. Wade, L. half; N. F. Kerr, R. half; F. S. Allan (sub.); Casey (F. W.) Baldwin, back.

Ridley's boy-population was less than one third that of Upper Canada. Ridley's full-term boarders (and she had very few day-boys) totalled between seventy and eighty, while Upper Canada could draw its athletes from a student roll of 270 and often more. It was a handicap to which Ridley was sublimely indifferent, but there is nothing wrong with the spirit of a school which can overcome it, and never refer to it in time of adversity.

Ridley's clean sweep of all football rivals in 1897 had not been heralded, and the realization that the black-and-orange footballers were having a season such as a school dreams about but is seldom actually experienced, did not dawn on either the School or the Old Boys until the first week of November, with the Upper Canada game due to be played. Ridley had trounced St. Catharines Collegiate twice, 15-1 and 35-0, but then had only tied Hamilton Juniors 7-7; they were undefeated still, but this tie did not seem to augur well. When they defeated Trinity College School decisively (32-2) on Rosedale grounds on October 30, the optimists foresaw the realization of the great hope. They might – just might – defeat the mighty U.C.C. team.

There would have been more confidence if the record of Ridley football teams against Upper Canada had not been so bleak; Ridley had come close to defeating Upper Canada in 1891, but since then the record had been sad. As *Acta's* football reporter said: "Since 1891 until the present year, it required but little exertion for the Toronto boys to win." Ridley did not know the School had been in danger of building a football tradition of losing to Upper Canada; each year, they were filled anew with hope and determination. And now that hope came true!

The Ridley record for 1897 was nine games played, one tied, and eight won, but only the smashing defeat of Upper Canada on their own campus on November 6 really mattered.

The teams lined up for the game as follows:

Upper Canada College: back, Morrison; halves, Fudger, Hills, Birmingham; quarter, Jackson; scrimmage, Boyd, Burwash, Beck; wings, Petherbridge (captain), Parker, Howitt, Mason, Brodie, Denison, Crosthwaite.

Bishop Ridley College: back, Baldwin, halves, Doolittle (captain), Kerr, Wade; quarter, Hobbs; scrimmage, Gander, Norsworthy, McLeod; wings, Sewell, Harcourt, Lumbers, Dalton, Alexander, Hoyles, Haverson.

The game was a glorious battle (in the Ridley view) from the moment they won the toss and chose to kick into the wind. There was a lot of good kicking in the first quarter, then Kerr got the ball, passed to Pete Haverson as he was tackled, and Haverson was hurled over the line by the Ridley backs. Kerr converted. Score: U.C.C. 0; Ridley 6.

The second quarter saw the mass plays of the time in frequent use, with Ridley's wedge finally triumphant; the orange-and-black pile-driver, pushing

at the enemy line, slowly forced Hobbs over by bull-force. Kerr again converted. Score: U.C.C. 0; Ridley 12.

This was unbelievable! Half-time was called just after Ridley gained another single point and again had the ball close to the goal line. Ridley's supporters were in an amazed haze of excitement. Throughout the half-time breather they hardly spoke, afraid to break the spell.

Then, in the third quarter, Upper Canada's experience and weight started to tell. Ridley was tiring. U.C.C. began to threaten. Hills of Upper Canada did some magnificent kicking, and when Casey Baldwin made a bad boot as he tried a flying kick, with the wind carrying the ball behind him, Upper Canada's wings were on it in a flash and scored. The third quarter ended: U.C.C. 8; Ridley 13.

The tension and excitement of the last quarter was almost unbearable for Ridley's Old Boys on the sidelines, while the team tightened up, steadied itself and prepared to stage a rocklike defence. "In the last twenty minutes of the game our boys gave as good an exhibition of defensive play as has ever been seen on any football field in Canada," said *Acta*, proudly.

In that last twenty minutes, Ridley actually forced the play after U.C.C. had scored a single point twice. Her wings broke through and pulled down Jackson or Hills of U.C.C. again and again after a gain of only a few yards. The orange and black had fought up the field beyond half-way when the finish came, in a sudden burst of pent-up Ridley cheers.

The acclaim was prolonged and utterly incoherent; they had waited for this since the first Ridley football team of 1890. Final score: U.C.C. 10; Ridley 13.

The pandemonium which rocked the School on the bank of the Welland Canal that night was perhaps never quite matched in sheer delirious joy in all the years of Ridley's triumphs to come on an athletic field. They would defeat Upper Canada again in 1899, but the uproarious celebration of that second peak in football glory could not equal this one in 1897. The College became a happy madhouse, with the duty-master shutting both eyes and ears. They were still celebrating long after midnight. At 1.00 a.m. outbursts of song and sudden eruptions of hoarse-voiced cheers were still being heard in the *Top Flat*. Mr. W. H. Graham, who taught Moderns but was also assistant football coach, tiptoed to the door, then went softly away again.

One of the most elated of all was Biddy Barr, their great coach.

He had taught Big Mud (N. W.) Hoyles, youngest of the two Hoyles and easily the lightest boy on the team, how to tackle a much heavier opponent, with effect and without getting hurt. This did not save him when someone tackled him. They had to carry Big Mud away on a stretcher, because he had made a pestiferous decoy of himself at outside wing and was finally hit hard. Big Mud was still fit enough next day to write a song to celebrate the great victory:

*Remember, remember the 6th of November,
U.C.C. thirteen to ten;
I don't see any reason
Why such a fine season
Should not come again and again.*

If the Ridley mood and way of life in these early days has a lesson for the much larger modern Ridley, it is in this complete abandonment to school spirit by both masters and boys. It lasted all night and into the next day. A treasured photograph of Doggie Mason's shows four Ridley boys parading St. Catharines' streets next day, each carrying a cryptic (to some residents) sign which said:

BRC — 13

UCC — 10

They were Counter Norsworthy, Pete Haverson, Big Mud Hoyles and Billy Doolittle, and all their clothes except their shoes were worn backwards, even their ties. They were trailed by a steadily growing crowd of youngsters and stopped traffic on the main downtown corner, when the celebrating quartet paused to give the Ridley yell.

The School did not forget Biddy Barr, who had finally lived down the fact that he was an Upper Canada Old Boy. There was real feeling in the song the Ridley boys were singing:

*Biddy, Biddy, I've been thinking,
What an awful thing 'twould be,
If instead of coaching Ridley
You had gone to U.C.C.*

The 1897 football team was not finished; they had still more victories. The St. Catharines Collegiate footballers must have been dead game, for they tackled Ridley a third time that season and were again beaten, this time 28-0. Ridley also defeated the Hamilton III team twice, and then finished their year by downing the Old Boys, 11-4, just to prove they were undisputed masters of all.

That great 1897 football team was lauded by a new periodical, *Saturday Night*; the editor wrote that the Ridley footballers "held their own against the best clubs in the country". Such unfamiliar prominence was savoured most of all by the Old Boys; the team itself took it in stride. It is said that Ridleian conceit was all but insufferable that winter when an Upper Canada graduate was encountered by a Ridley Old Boy. Their football conceit was forgivable; a long series of defeats had been reversed and the most coveted of all Ridley "firsts" was on the record — that defeat of both rival schools in both cricket and football in a single year.

Billy (W. C. J.) Doolittle was football captain of the victorious team, and it was certainly his year, but the boy who was emerging as a permanent Ridley football hero was F. W. Baldwin who was the "great Casey" even in 1897 when he was fifteen years old. He weighed only 136 pounds but played an heroic game at full-back. He would later play a lot of football; he was Varsity captain; he then became world-famous as the first Canadian to fly a heavier-than-air craft. (He was actually the first Britisher to fly an airplane, though Henri Farman is often given this honour; but if Farman had an English father he was French-born and a citizen of France.) Despite this later prominence and acclaim, Casey was never given more adulation than during this and the following football season at Ridley. Old Boys still talk of his rare ability to punt equally well with either foot. Others vow he was the greatest all-around athlete produced in Canada prior to 1900. Before his four glorious football years at Ridley were done, the boys were singing songs about the School's living athletic legend:

*Right half – left half – all of the College best,
 (Fifteen stalwart boys and true, fit to fight all day!)
 And each of them doing his best to score
 (And Casey to see to the rest!) –
 Get in the game for Ridley's sake,
 And play! play! play!*

There were other great Ridley athletes that year to vie with Casey for honours; like him, Dalton, Doolittle and Hoyles were stars of 1897 in a very special way: each one was on Ridley's first team for all three major sports – cricket, football and hockey. It had been achieved before by the great Alex Mackenzie, but that four boys should do so in a single year reveals not only their personal all-round ability but the general high quality of Ridley's athletes in 1897. This would not be uncommon as the years wore on, but it meant much in Ridley's first decade.

Ridley's footballers were emphatic that they were guiltless of rough or dirty play on the football fields of the secondary schools. Complaints were serious enough from some quarter to necessitate a meeting of the three headmasters in 1896. The Headmaster of Ridley wrote a memorandum:

SPECIAL SCHOOL UMPIRES

The Headmasters of Upper Canada College, Trinity College School, Ridley College, have decided to appoint extra special umpires in the inter-school contests in football, for the purpose of repressing undue roughness.

1. Each school shall be represented by a master as extra special umpire.
2. During a match these masters shall remain in company outside the touch line.

3. They shall not interfere with the ordinary play nor question any decision of the regular officials who will, in School matches, depute to the special umpires the right to suspend players.
4. They shall take note of any attempt at brutality or undue roughness, and with or without warning, suspend any offending player.
5. A suspended player shall not be allowed to re-enter the game.

That Ridley's footballers had neither complained nor were the target of the emergency move is evident because the players heard nothing of the special watch which was quietly instituted for a season or two to check rough play. The "special umpires" were never actually appointed, because the regularly appointed officials considered the idea a reflection on both their integrity and ability to enforce the rules. But each headmaster did appoint a master to report to him on any rough play he noticed. Apparently, word of this was a sufficient check; at least, nothing was heard of rough play as Ridley had triumphed in 1897.

In 1898 Ridley's footballers failed to maintain their tremendous effort of the previous year, but they won three games including a defeat of T.C.S., 19-0, tied one, and lost to Upper Canada, 2-0, but without disgrace, and only after such a ruggedly fought game that Biddy Barr, told the squad he was proud of them.

THE FOOTBALL TEAM, 1898

F. W. Baldwin (captain); H. H. Charles; M. H. Gander;
J. E. T. Sewell; F. Roy; H. H. Wilkinson; J. P. Haverson;
A. E. Dalton; A. C. Snively; L. D. Young; W. N. Nicholls;
R. G. Duggan; H. L. Hoyles; A. S. Trimmer; A. W. Harcourt;
K. R. Pearce. Mr. A. F. Barr, coach.

The Ridley football team pioneered in a new style of Canadian rugby this year through the inspiration of Coach Barr. They were the first team in Canada to use a complete code of number signals. The number-code system now tested was an American experiment, being tried by Ridley at the request of football captain Burnside of the University of Toronto where it was not used in an actual game until later.

Ridley had been using oral signals to disguise their plays for some time, of course. One of these, and its retort, was so familiar it was something like a password between graduates. It went like this:

"Have you bugles, Colonel?"
"Yes, sir, one for each company."

Opponents were fooled, because the cryptic terms generally indicated a different play each time it was used, and it was always in use.

To the spectators, familiar with old-style football, the contrast in the use of the new number code, because of the quickness with which the Ridley players

picked up their signals and responded, was a revelation. "They went into a play as if breaking for the 100-yard dash – a sort of explosion." After a single game, both players and spectators felt this innovation was sure to be adopted everywhere. It was, as all modern footballers know, but objections and misconceptions in the contrary way of football rule-makers held back acceptance of the number-code system for a long time.

AN ENTIRELY new course was laid out for the Cross-Country Run of 1895 by the Headmaster and Mr. Mitchell, and both the new route and the race itself proved memorable for incidents – and mud. November mud was not unusual, but the new course was: it ran along the canal to Norris Mill, where it crossed the ploughed fields – a clinging morass – to the St. Paul St. Bridge, where the juniors could take the short way home. Their only complaint was about the jeers from the brewery workers, as the mud-sheathed stragglers staggered wearily past. The seniors, however, spoke irately about a frightening chained bulldog in a back-yard, howling for their blood; and also about a farmer, brandishing a shot-gun and daring them to cross his vacant lot. On investigation, the shot-gun proved not to be loaded, but no muddy runner risked finding out; they ran around the bulldog and detoured the shot-gun through another horrible – extra – ploughed field.

The boys who finished in 1895 deserved their oyster supper that night. There were noisy protests that those who crowded the Bun House during the run for tea and cakes should be denied a single oyster.

Great interest developed in the run in 1896, because rivalry was high between several of the School's fleetest boys, especially among the juniors. The field of runners was always surprisingly large, with at least twenty-five aspiring juniors. The latter were sent away first, with Duggan, the pre-race favourite, unexpectedly caught and passed by Big Mud Hoyles at the Brewery. Big Mud had been second in '95 to Schramm, though two years younger, and had since grown a little. These two youngsters, Hoyles and Duggan, soon outdistanced the big junior field and finished well ahead, with Hoyles winning easily. The big disappointment to many of his backers was Counter Norsworthy, a distant third. They had expected him to be an easy winner of the junior race. ("His failure can be attributed to the heaviness of his spirits, which he foolishly took with him. Mr. Williams that morning had given him eight verbs to write out – *for betting on himself during class!*")

Schramm followed his junior win in 1895 by winning the senior race in 1896.

In 1897 Big Mud Hoyles again won the junior race, while his older brother, Little Mud, was winning the senior run. Counter Norsworthy was frustrated again; he was second to Hoyles in the senior. The ground was frozen hard in '97, with fast times made despite several inches of snow in the valleys, for

snow did not act as a brake as did that clinging octopus, November mud. Here were the Cross-Country winners in these four exciting Ridley years:

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Junior</i>
1895	H. R. Harmer	A. F. Schramm
1896	A. F. Schramm	N. W. Hoyles mi
1897	H. L. Hoyles ma	N. W. Hoyles mi
1898	M. D. Kennedy	S. C. Snively

RIDLEY's hockey fortunes did not match those of cricket and football. Except for the winter of 1895-6 they could find no outside competition. Yet the rink beside the canal was so crowded, and in such demand, a schedule had to be posted allotting ice-time for form teams' practice and their games, and to the skaters. The latter would circle the rink by the hour, in stride to Price's mouth-organ, or a quick, lilting banjo tune, while the aspiring young hockey players scowled on the sidelines at such a prissy use of their rink.

The complete absence of hockey competition after 1896 was a surprise, because that winter had been promising, if also deflating. After years of challenging Upper Canada in vain, a goading message suddenly won an acceptance, and Ridley and U.C.C. finally clashed on the ice for the first time – *and the last for a long twenty-three years!*

The game was played before a packed gallery in Toronto's Granite Club, which made what happened harder to bear. Because Ridley had taunted Upper Canada unmercifully about being afraid to get on the ice against them, there were blighted hopes and many Ridleian red faces. They lost 11-10.

Hockey still remained so far from being a well-organized sport in Ontario that matches for Ridley's School team could not be arranged for the three straight years 1896-7-8. But covered rinks were now being built all over the province, and Ridley's hockey enthusiasts decided their lack of one was the main cause of their difficulty in lining up competition. They organized Ridley's first hint-and-nudge propaganda campaign, aimed at the Board of Directors. They were not subtle about it; their campaign slogan rose to a school shout: "*We want a covered rink!*"

Every young voice in the School joined the chorus, for all of them were at least skating, and they were up in arms about the porous, lumpy ice surface when the night frosts did happen to be sharp enough to make ice. They demanded a rink whose ice would not be ridged and rippled by wind, pitted with dirt and blown twigs, holed by the Nesbitt cows and often dangerously lumpy from slush ice which had frozen too slowly after a thaw.

The temperature of the St. Catharines area was frequently ten degrees higher than that of Toronto, but in these winters there were often prolonged frosts, with long hockey schedules quite possible on a protected ice-surface.

The masters and Headmaster Miller could not help but hear the plea of the "hint campaign", and probably abetted it, even if the Headmaster realized that in 1895 the cost of a covered rink was out of the question.

This would not have stopped the clamour or the boys' letters to parents asking them to get after the Board of Directors, even if they could appreciate the financial headaches inflicted by the times. In 1896 the *Acta* hockey reporter wrote covered-rink propaganda which was not very subtle. He hoped the Headmaster would see to it that in this hockey season the team would be given more time to practise, and "would not be forced to spend whole afternoons getting the ice fit for skating". He hoped, too, that "cows and other noxious animals are kept off the ice at night".

Mild winters and failures to find hockey competition for their first team in 1896, 1897 and 1898 left the annual score sheets blank; games played, 0.

Frustrated, but undismayed, the form teams went on playing each other throughout the three winter seasons as if battling Upper Canada, or as if each victory meant the proudest of Ridley laurels to each forward, defenceman and goalkeeper. With such spirit, their struggle for the kind of rink they wanted seemed bound to succeed in the end.

THE MISCHIEF-MAKERS

LIKE all boarding schools, Ridley always had a corps of pestiferous mischief-makers, and in the 1897-9 period the School seemed to have an extra share of fiendish instigators of pranks, to harry the masters. Climbing in and out of the dormitory windows at night and walking around the roof on the wide eaves-troughing ("only Bernard Tate ever fell off and he wasn't hurt much") was just a minor regular escapade by half the boys of *Top Flat*. Layers of bricks protruded down the wall on the corner, to give hand- and foot-holds, and some of them could go up and down in the dark like cats. Others used the drain-pipe.

Many of them had the duty-masters at their wits' end because some of the boys developed a weird cleverness in both concocting pranks and escaping capture.

The most notorious were Stiminy Stunt (H. S.) Stayner (who did not reform even when chosen a prefect) and his room-mate, the deceptively quiet Big Mud (N. W.) Hoyles, who was Hoyles mi; his brother (H. L.) was two years older and two forms ahead of him. Stiminy and Big Mud made one of those boy-pacts on how to harry Authority which can cause consternation, frustration and sheer rage in a master.

They were a contrasting pair of mischief-makers. Mud Hoyles was the quiet kind; he was generally the youngest in his class, but was such a brilliant

student his marks had him at the top of all his classes, both at Ridley and later at R.M.C., where he was to be both football captain and fencing champion. (He had such a retentive memory that in 1959 he called the complete Ridley student roll of 1897 for this historian, without missing a name in a rapid-fire monologue.)

These mental abilities were so well known and appreciated by Ridley's academic staff that they could not believe for a long time that Mud, not Stunt, was the ringleader, and the principal inventor of all their new tricks and tactics. He was unobtrusive, while Stunt was an extrovert, often noisy and assertive. Mud looked like a meek aesthetic, while Stunt was a gay trouble-hunter. The boys knew which was the strong personality and the leader; there was good reason why they called Hoyles mi Big Mud, and his older brother Little Mud.

The pact was signed without pre-planning. While crouched one night over a tiny bonfire on a piece of tin on the School's roof – just to be doing something they shouldn't do – Mud decided that the School's rules and regulations must have been written just to be broken. Stunt agreed. So they solemnly swore to break each rule at least once every month. Mud opened a set of books to keep track, with dates and details to be entered.

They didn't smoke, but they took a few puffs on a cigarette on the last day of each month, for the sake of the record. They were constantly up and down the drain-pipe at night, so that didn't count, but a surreptitious sneak into town at night did. They would not close the books for any month until they had been downtown, whether they had any money to spend or anything to do or not. The books made rule-breaking compulsory and kept them in a state of perpetual undeclared war with Authority.

But repetition soon proved boring, so they turned more and more to invention. They were soon the School's leading baiters of masters, their proclivity in escaping detection still holding. They were not even suspected on the eve of the Queen's Birthday when they press-ganged Doggie Mason and Sky Snively to light their fire-cracker fuses, while they shot sky-rockets out of the sick-room window directly at the roof and rear windows of the Headmaster's house. How they escaped detection for that they never knew, and they wondered for years why the dry shingles on the Miller house were not set afire.

Mud and Stunt were gunners of the Mud-puddle Field Battery, a unique organization which even contrived a Long Tom made of an iron pipe and a firing apparatus worked out by Doggie Mason, just now a budding artillery engineer and explosive chemist. He made pellets by dropping melted lead into water and manufactured the Battery's firing cartridges. Long Tom was more of a mortar than a gun; it could lob a slug weighing half a pound not far, but with enough velocity to put a permanent hole into Ridley's front

steps. Another shot almost wrecked the boat-house, and did hole the Headmaster's boat. The artillery piece could even explode a giant fire-cracker in the air; when they discovered this, the Field Battery suddenly became shrapnel artillery with its gunners experts in the short fuse. One burst of fire-cracker shrapnel above a group of workers on the canal bank scared them nearly witless. When it happened three evenings in a row, both the St. Catharines police and the Headmaster heard about the artillery sniping from the foreman, despite Big Mud's attempt to divert him at the front door. The foreman refused to believe the Headmaster was out.

The Mud-puddle Field Battery went out of action by gradual capture of its guns, but not of its gunners. They escaped unscathed even when Long Tom was confiscated.

One memorable morning all masters were late for breakfast, and then arrived in a towering rage, with their tempers not helped by sensing that the whole school was rocking with half-suppressed mirth. ("Sky Snively choked on his porridge and Pete Haverson had to pound his back.") During the night, someone had screwed a latch firmly to the outside of the masters' doors, locking them in. Though the rattling, banging and shouted commands from behind the sealed doors were echoing like thunder all over the School, and though a flick of the latch from outside would have released them, the boys were stone-deaf. They scuttled past in high glee on the way to breakfast. A maid and the housekeeper finally released the imprisoned masters. A determined school-wide search was instituted to unearth the nocturnal "carpenters". It failed. Stunt and Mud felt quite safe; they knew not a boy would tell during the inquisition.

They grew bolder and bolder with their pranks. Mr. Hendry was duty-master one night and was attracted to the room of the now infamous pair of prank inventors by strange sounds – the rattle of crockery. Warily suspicious, he looked in, but his candle's light only shone on the innocent faces of two boys, fast asleep. (They had spent hours setting this scene.) Mr. Hendry saw a cupboard door gently closing. He sprang toward it, shouting: "Come out of there!" He jerked the door open – nothing; no hidden boy.

Then the room door slammed shut. Mr. Hendry whirled and leaped toward it, triumphantly commanding, "Stop! Stop!" to the escaping boy – and the handle of the door came off in his hand!

Mr. Hendry stood there, debating, fuming, holding the door handle in one hand and the candle in the other. The place was uncanny.

He knew the two boys were feigning sleep; they had not moved despite all his shouting. Besides, no boy in the world could look as innocent as Harry Stayner was trying to look. He was even pretending to snore. He moved menacingly toward Stunt's bed just as a hand jerked under the covers of the other bed. The door squeaked, and slowly opened as if touched by a ghostly hand.

Mr. Hendry turned, stared at it a moment, and decided there was nothing to be gained by giving these two the satisfaction of admitting he had been another of their victims. He started to leave – *and the door slammed shut in his face!*

That was too much! But there was more – a crockery night vessel began rattling again!

In an instant, both boys were sprawling in the hall and then their beds were pulled violently apart.

"It must have taken them days to string the network of fine piano-wire they had strung around their room," Mr. Hendry confided later.

The ingenious pair caught it for that, of course. It was a good thing Mr. Hendry had not put a hand in Mud's dresser drawer; there would have been a rattlesnake *whirr* and a darning needle would have stung him.

"It's astonishing how many times we got off scot-free," recalled Mud long afterwards.

But punishment was regular, too. The pair had a good philosophy about pranks and penalties; if they had fun, they accepted retribution cheerfully. Big Mud, when he was Col. Hoyles, still regretted that he had lost somewhere along the years, the Stayner-Hoyles Punishment Book. They had proudly kept a record of the Stayner-Hoyles sentences – "6 hours; 1,000 lines; 6 on each; 12 whacks" – as better-behaved boys might have recorded their academic triumphs. It would have shocked Mr. N. W. Hoyles, Q.C., who was a member of Ridley's Board, and president of Wycliffe, and also a member of the Senate of the University of Toronto. In 1897 he would not have believed his eyes; he had just received from his sons two versions of their progress at Ridley, one written in Latin and one in Greek. He did not know that the clever younger son, Big Mud, had written both. ("But I wish I still had that Punishment Book – the rare record of crime and its penalties at Ridley. It was a wonderful book.")

The instigators of a new prank in 1897 – the Lock-out – also evaded detection and punishment, though some of their brave followers suffered. For no particular reason, high-spirited boys placed a detached door across the corridor leading into the Main, and then defied all comers to pass, whether boys or masters. Most of the miscreants behind the barricade escaped in a well-planned scatteration as it went down.

Not so in the second Lock-out; another door was placed across the top-floor corridor one night, with dressers and anything movable they could find piled up as a barricade against masters and prefects. *But they had forgotten their rear!* "Billy Hendry came in a window from the roof like a pirate boarding a ship, a strap in one hand and a candle in the other."

It was the comparatively innocent Ambridge, whose trousers were stretched tight as he leaned forward to peek out of another window, who suffered the first terrific whack from Mr. Hendry's strap.

Stunt and Mud were failing to escape more and more. One day Casey Baldwin spotted them waiting outside the Headmaster's study door; he knew they could only be there for one thing – a caning. He had just asked, "What's up with you two?" when the Headmaster called: "Come."

Deciding that anything involving them must include him, Casey marched in with them. "What? You, too, Baldwin?" asked Mr. Miller in surprise.

"Yes, sir," said Casey, though he did not even know the crime.

The sequel was surprising, and also revealing of Casey's swift mind. He sensed the crime from the Headmaster's first words, and then put up such an eloquent defence that all three went free. Stunt and Mud were awed. "We came out with our mouths open," said Stunt. "We had never said a word."

The boys had been inclined to take the Headmaster too lightly until about this time. His beard was touched with grey, though he was still in his early thirties, and as it was not a bushy hirsute facial adornment but more of a Vandyke, it gave rise to the nickname, The Goat. (It may have been Stunt Stayner who first hissed one night, "Ware the Goat!") The whole school went on strike one day, for a reason so slight it is now forgotten. It probably just seemed like a fine idea at the time to the instigators. The whole school went off on a stroll up Twelve Mile Creek; not a boy reported to class that afternoon. The entire student body then abruptly acquired a new respect for the Headmaster. They came trailing back, a bit sheepishly as they grew hungry, and were astonished not to be met with the expected "storm and thunder". They entered the school in bunches, as if that might offer protection from retribution, but nothing was said.

Instead, the Headmaster quietly, and doubtless grimly, ordered every senior classman to report to his study. Then he caned them all, one after another. It required more than an hour, but the cane was still stinging at the end.

The sore seniors probably did not see either the justice or the common-sense of the caning at the moment, if the surprised juniors were elatedly relieved by their escape. Then the reason grew clear with a little thought; if the seniors had not joined the strike, regardless of who instigated it or why, the juniors would certainly not have gone for the historic stroll up The Twelve.

The lesson was in the responsibility a senior of Ridley must accept. After a little time the entire school, especially the seniors, contracted a great respect for the astute discernment of the man who headed Ridley. He knew boys.

THE one encroachment by snobbery of any consequence in the life of Ridley occurred now; it was short-lived, and it was the boys themselves who made sure that this would be so. During the early Nineties (before '95) a small clique of sons of well-to-do and socially prominent parents formed the

Gamma Sig Society. Several of the School's "big fellows" were then persuaded to join who did not at first understand this was an attempt to isolate a group from their fellows with all the elements of self-elected exclusiveness. When this was seen, opposition was quickly mustered. Llewellyn Price and Harry Griffith were among those who launched the Anti-Gamma Sig movement; Hugh Hoyles, Counter Norsworthy, Doggie Mason, Casey Baldwin, Sky Snively and several others then carried on the opposition until they finally obliterated the fraternity.

Their opposition movement was much stronger than passive resistance. Scornful criticism was outspoken. Before long, the Gamma Sig members discovered they were so exclusive they were all alone. None of the boys who, in their opinion, mattered would join. One or two final stragglers found themselves cold-shouldered and isolated. Gamma Sig then died, unmourned.

In a school which had been remarkably free from divisions except healthy rivalry between dormitories, and from cliques except those of close friends, and where the boys had learned to scorn snobbery with a fine high scorn, such a fraternity had little chance to become securely established. If Gamma Sig had not been such palpable snobbery it might have lived longer. But its intention to indicate superiority was so obvious that the majority of Ridley's boys would have none of it. They slew Gamma Sig, and re-established more firmly than ever the unwritten law that contempt was Ridley's reaction to a snob.

This episode during these formative years is one reason why the complete absence of snobbery at Ridley remains one of the most refreshing and inspiring of all her qualities. At times, little groups of boys would turn up with a sense of superiority and band together for a brief period, but their superiority was always lost on the student body; they were traditionally ignored so pointedly by the rest of the boys each one was soon glad to be accepted as just a Ridley boy.

That the most popular boy in the School in any given year could not lay claim to either family wealth or social position, became an almost traditional pattern. Just as easily, the son of the richest of all fathers could be a campus idol, but this was so only because of his personal qualities.

It was a School character which seemed to cherish itself, as it does today, and this is one of the finest tributes this historian can pay to Ridley, or which could be paid to a preparatory school anywhere.

If Gamma Sig was ended by action of the boys themselves, the death of the *Fly-paper* was ordered by Authority. This was a bright, perhaps too bright unofficial college journal set up in opposition to *Acta Ridleiana*. Because Bill Greening was taking typewriting lessons, he was elected printer and publisher, but no copies seem to exist and the editor has not been identified. In any event, perhaps the staff was not listed on the *Fly-paper's* masthead. It is suspected that Stunt Stayner, Doggie Mason and Sky Snively

had a hand in it. The gunners of the Mud-puddle Field Battery were certainly interested; the *Fly-paper* published a scathing rebuke for the unseemly confiscation of Long Tom.

Later, when Mr. Miller crossed the canal daily to follow the construction of the new Lower School, the *Fly-paper* sadly misquoted Wordsworth:

*“And thither many and many a day he went,
And never lifted a single stone.”*

Inevitably, the *Fly-paper* was suppressed. No one seriously objected, though its unknown editors must have had fun while it lasted.

THROUGH all these interesting years, the unhonoured and misnamed cadets were still drilled twice weekly by Capt. Thairs; they should not be forgotten, even if they were without uniforms or any other equipment except a few carpenter-shop “rifles” and Capt. Thairs’ silver-topped parade-ground cane. The drill-squads were a good disciplinary means; Capt. Thairs taught the boys how to stand with straight-backed erectness, and how to march with a sharp, soldierly stride. He also taught them quick obedience, to respond instantly to an order, and older boys were given valuable lessons in command. But maintaining their interest was hard-going; even the *chuck* of just one drum to lift their step would have helped. To many of the boys, the drill squads were tedious and boring, and detested next to detention.

With the urging and encouragement of the Headmaster, Capt. Thairs had made regular appeals to the Department of Militia and Defence, via the Military District’s H.Q. at Toronto, for an official cadet corps status, always to no avail. They did obtain advice on how it might be done, and the Directors were working on it, but there was still no real promise of the proud Ridley Cadet Corps which we know finally developed. Since no outside assistance was obtainable, Capt. Thairs simply carried on with what he was given as a good soldier does.

There was a more direct promise of the still distant, mature Ridley when the School would have high repute in Ontario education for its discussion groups on national and world affairs. The arrival in ’99 of a new master, C. M. Keys, who taught English, enabled the Headmaster to incorporate something new, but long-planned; the other masters had been too involved in other intramural activities to take it on. Mr. Keys began a series of Saturday morning lectures; it was the serious start of Ridley’s ultimate permanent custom to keep her boys informed on the outside world which they must enter. Mr. Keys’ first lectures, given in the prayer hall, were on the Nicaragua Canal – a headline topic of the day – on the Fashoda affair, and a fascinating account of the Egypt of those days.

Debates were also introduced as a regular feature of instruction by the Headmaster, for he believed it gave boys the opportunity, and thereby did them a lot of good, to discover and voice and perhaps examine their personal prejudices. He would have endorsed today's popular definition of true education – "the development of the whole man" – but he also believed that some parts of the man needed special attention if his mental processes were to give him the right values and moral strength. He would probably have said that the "whole man" would then take care of himself. Exposing his prejudices, and coming to understand them, rather than to harbour them unconsciously until they became deeply imbedded, gave a boy the opportunity to develop tolerance as a key attribute of his personal character.

A most interesting debate in 1898 was on a resolution declaring that: "Pugilism is a disgrace to any country." Pete (J. Percy) Haverson (son of the lawyer who was to write the Ontario Temperance Act) who was to become a legendary Toronto police reporter, led the affirmative. He was supported by Bourne and Price, with Norsworthy, Hoyles and Smith opposing them. Result: a draw. Headmaster Miller was not very complimentary about this debate; he seems to have delivered judgment "in a satirical vein, perhaps reflecting upon himself".

For months there had been a steady build-up toward the first Ridley Assault-at-Arms. It could be seen in increasing activity by the gymnasts on the tumbling mats, rings, horses, parallel and swinging bars. It may have been partly inspired by the fencing class, or even by the defeat of the burly John L. Sullivan by Corbett, the Dancing Master, which popularized boxing at Ridley (if not with some mothers). Despite the views of the debaters who had argued that pugilism was a national disgrace, it had suddenly become respectable. The Marquis of Queensbury's rules tended to stop bare-fist fighting everywhere, and were seeking to insert into fisticuffs the English love of a fair fight. Some Ridley boys had started taking sparring lessons from Arthur Schramm, an ex-professional pugilist living in St. Catharines and reputed to be a "whizz". He taught young gentlemen how to punch and counter-punch and to defend themselves for a good round fee, but with bloody tales of his bare-knuckle days as an extra. Ridley had quite a squad of boxers.

Fencing had reached its heyday at Ridley with the arrival of Clemmy Keys who had been fencing at Varsity. Far more boys wanted to be a d'Artagnan than he could instruct properly. They soon learned that the arm and wrist exercises were excruciatingly painful to newly used muscles as they gained the required strength for the parry of lunges and ripostes. ("Try holding even a light rapier at full arm stretch for five minutes without dropping your point!")

Fencing instruction went something like this: "As y'were! *On guard!* ONE

. . . that's better . . . *TWO*; foil horizontal, hand up . . . don't sag over in the middle like a sack of flour Number Five . . . *THREE* . . . Now look at that would you! . . . That drooping gladiator isn't exactly your role, Number Four . . .

"Head erect . . . I could reach that stomach with my hilt, Number Six . . .

"Steady class . . . *extend* . . . steady . . . *guard, extend* . . . **LUNGE!**"

Number One: "*Ugh!*"

Number Two: "Oo oo!"

Number Three (agonizing groan): "Please let us up, sir."

Number Four: "I'm dead, sir."

After each strenuous class, the heartless instructor would report: "I hardly have to say a word to them. Keen on fencing, they are. They like it."

Fencing was on the agenda when a Ridley Assault-at-Arms was arranged as a public display in the Masonic Hall in St. Catharines. Sgt. Grant and Sgt. Casey Williams of the 48th Highlanders and Varsity came over from Toronto to give exhibitions of bayonet-fighting, just then more popular in Canada than it had ever been before (or has been since). The redoubtable Casey Williams (always called Cap at Ridley) was famous as a Varsity athletic trainer for many long years. As the sergeant-instructor of the 48th Highlanders' bayonet-fighting team, he was now also famous throughout the British Army as well as the Canadian Militia. He had just returned from Aldershot where his team of 48th bayonet-fighters had gone to the finals, and where one of them – Pte. Stewart – had become the first (and only) Canadian regular soldier or militiaman ever to win the Bayonet-Fighting Championship of the British Army. It had suddenly launched tremendous interest in Canada in the rugged sport (which died just as quickly). It was undoubtedly the bayonet-fighters and not the Ridley athletes who packed the Masonic Hall, even the standing room for the first public tournament.

But, if bayonet-fighting and quarter-staff bouts were the feature, Ridley's fencers were a close second in popularity. Mr. Barr and Mr. Hendry (middles) and Baldwin and Hughes (welters) also staged exciting boxing bouts, even if they displayed more slugging power than skill; and the work of the gymnasts was warmly applauded.

A new and hilarious event, pick-a-back wrestling, popularized in the 1898 summer militia camps, brought down the house. Each wrestler was mounted on a "horse", a strong-legged Ridleian, and the intention was either to pull an opponent from his mount, or charge and knock both horse and rider to the floor in a heap. It was rough, but great fun, especially when an unhappy "horseman" was stretched out straight backwards while a red-faced, prolonged tug-of-war went on between his "horse", clutching his legs, and the enemy rider, clutching his head. The delighted audience cheered themselves hoarse.



ACTA RIDLEIANA

XMAS'97



J. L. Street. FORM 84.



W. R. WADSWORTH

('90-'93)

1893: Won the Bishop Strachan Scholarship in Moderns and Mathematics. Was Head Boy and won the Blake Gold Meadal in 1893.



H. C. GRIFFITH

('89-'96)

1896: Won the Dickson Scholarship in Moderns. He was Head Boy in 1895 and 1896 and voted the Blake Gold Medal in 1896.

First Scholarship Winners

Outstanding Athletes, Late Nineties



Casey (F.W.)
Baldwin wins the
hop-step-and-jump.



Bull (M.H.) Gander
wins the broad jump.



Above, the Hoyles brothers
won the two Cross-Country runs,
(1897). Big Mud (N.C.) left,
Junior; Little Mud (H.L.),
Senior.

Great Ridleians of the Early Years



First Lady of Ridley

Mrs. J. O. Miller charmed visitors and was eternally darning boys' socks. She wears the orange and black-net gown which inspired Ridley's school colours.



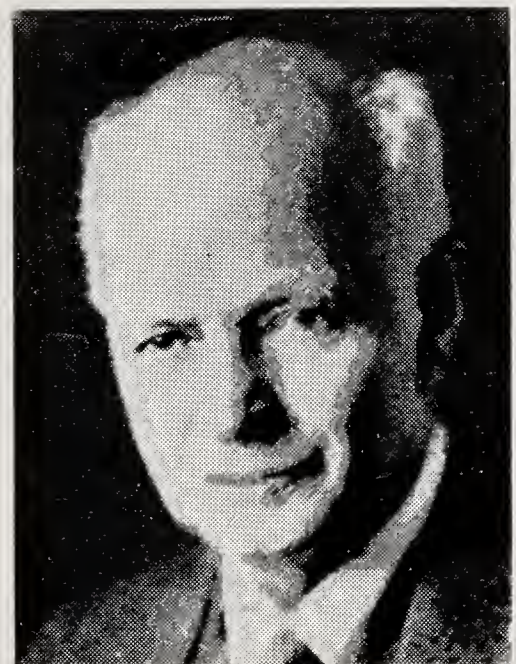
Ridley's First Cricket Great

Alex Mackenzie ('93-'97), son of Sir William. Football, cricket and hockey captain, he sparked Ridley's cricket tradition in 1895 by scoring her first century.



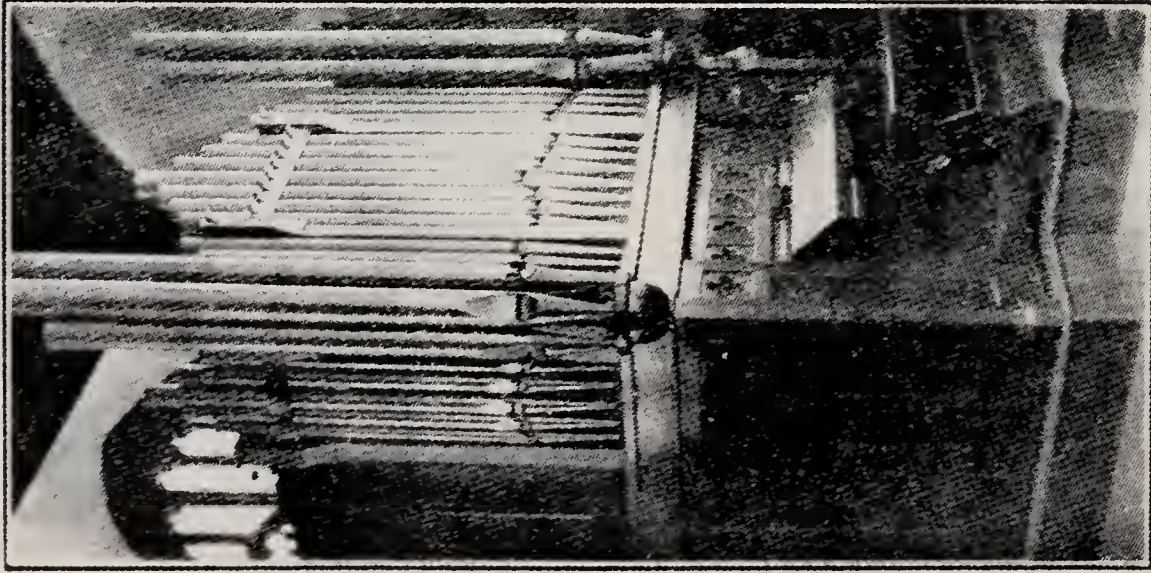
HON. MR. JUSTICE
A. C. KINGSTONE

Old Boy ('89-'92); First Pres. Old Boys Ass. (1893 and 1899); Governor (1903); Vice-Pres. (1921-38)



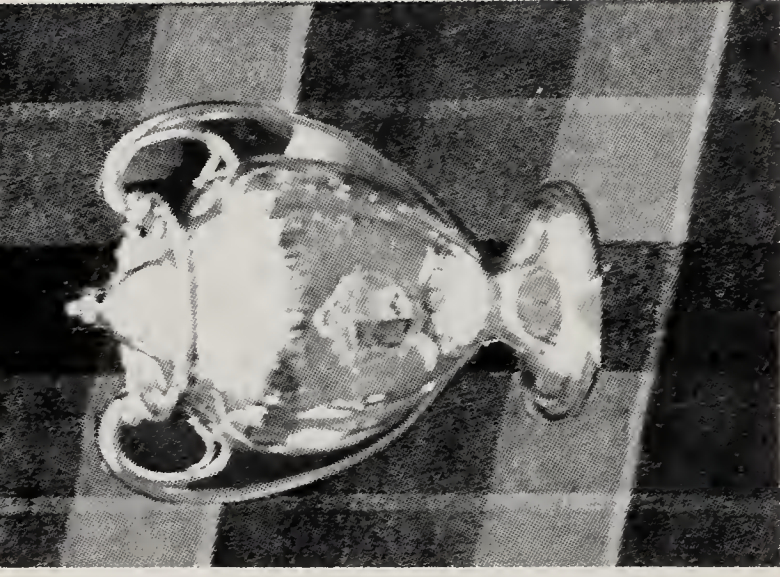
J. H. INGERSOLL, ESQ.

Governor (1899) and Chairman of the Local Board for years; Vice Pres. (1899-1921)

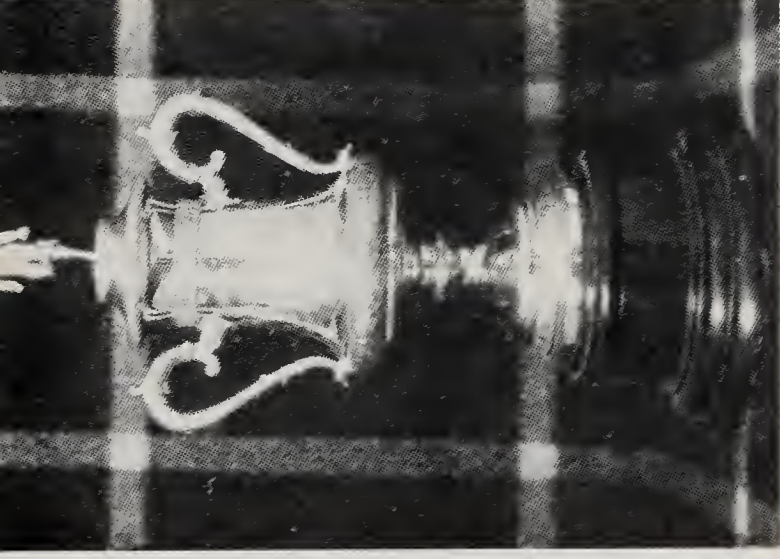


The Chapel Organ

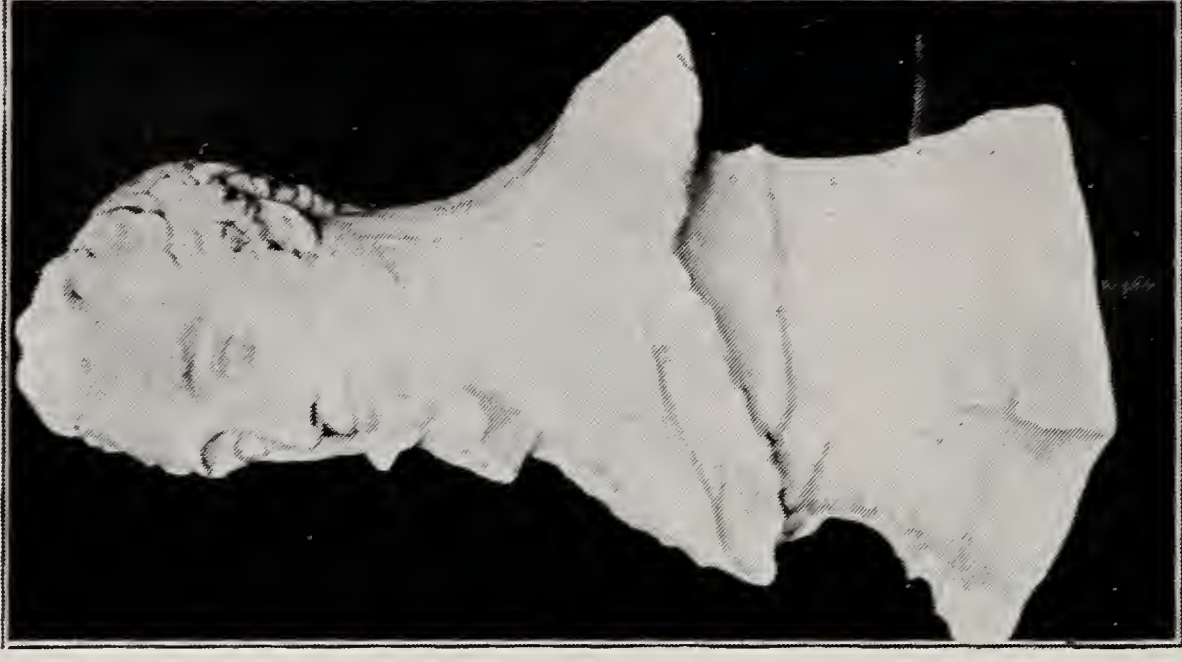
Donated by the boys through many Sunday evening chapel collections.



The W. G. Gooderham Cup
Senior Championship Trophy.
Established 1892 and still
awarded.



The H. C. Griffith Cup
Senior Trophy for the Cross
Country Run. Established in
1900 and still awarded.



Sir Isaac Brock
Bust presented by Mr. F. Elliot
in recognition of Ridley's
interest in frontier history.

TROPHIES AND



The School Crest
Student art, showing the new
motto adopted in 1900.

TALISMANS

This first Assault-at-Arms in 1898 was so successful an agreement was reached at once to repeat the show the following year, with the 48th bayonet-fighters promising the audience to return, which they did. The organizers also did not forget to include pick-a-back wrestling.

THE OLD BOYS PERMANENTLY ORGANIZE

THE attempt to organize a permanent Old Boys' Association in 1893 had been premature; they had not yet numbered enough. But the idea was never far from sight, and no doubt some of them were often stung by occasional scoldings in *Acta Ridleiana*. In 1896, *Acta* had reproved them pointedly:

"We are afraid we cannot congratulate our Old Boys on their energy. After going to press last Christmas we heard that the day was fixed for the annual dinner in Toronto, only to be disappointed a few days afterwards by the news that the arrangements had fallen through.

"Our Old Boys have responded just as half-heartedly to the appeal for subscriptions to *Acta*. About 50 personal appeals and about 80 sample copies were sent out at Christmas to as many Old Boys, and have been met with response in four cases only.

"We have the idea that it is not patriotism our Old Boys lack, but the energy to get a quarter's worth of stamps and send them in. We mean to try again."

To an observer, the salient feature of this editorial jibe, with the circulation manager of *Acta* also getting in his licks, was not that old Ridleians appeared disinterested, an impression they soon refuted forever, but that there should be so many of them at this early date in Ridley's history. The College's first year was only in the 1889-90 period, so the large number of Old Boys on the list only seven or eight years later – 192 of them in 1898 – disclosed both the important contribution already being made to Canadian life by Ridley through its fine graduate-citizens, and the rapidity with which boys pass through such an educational institution.

Without fanfare, a fresh start toward a permanent Old Boys' Association was now being seriously discussed at Toronto. It moved from conversation to action in the fall of 1898, when a plan was formed for a serious organizational meeting in the spring. It was soon scheduled definitely for the Rossin House on March 4. Thirty-five Old Boys turned up, and organization – or reorganization of the initial start back in 1893 – proceeded vigorously. The Reverend (Professor) H. J. Cody of Wycliffe was in the chair, and a slate of officers for an Executive was at once approved –

<i>Honorary President:</i>	The Reverend H. J. Cody, M.A.
<i>President:</i>	A. Courtney Kingstone, B.A.

Vice-President: Dr. E. M. Hooper
Treasurer: W. R. Wadsworth, B.A.
Toronto Committee: W. E. H. Carter; W. H. Cronyn, B.A.,
W. E. Caldecott, H. F. Darrell

Representatives for sub-committees at Hamilton, Kingston, Montreal, Halifax, Chicago and at Ridley College would be nominated to the Executive. The annual fee was set at one dollar, which would include a subscription to *Acta Ridleiana*. An annual dinner would be held. Old Boy cricket and football matches with the School would be arranged.

Thus seriously began the organization which would develop into the immensely valuable auxiliary to Ridley which the Old Boys' Association is today. The Headmaster was gratified because he was already visualizing the great aid to school morale the Association could be. Perhaps for the moment his appreciation of the Association's value did not go beyond that. It is doubtful if even the faith of Headmaster Miller let him foresee in 1899 that the day would come when the Board of Governors would include many Old Ridleians, and when reunions of 200 or more Old Boys would be held year after year, sometimes in several cities in the same winter just to revel in memories of their old school.

*I remember, I remember
No fir trees dark and high,
Whose slender tops I used to think
Were close against the sky;
But one scrape is not forgotten,
With I alone to blame,
When a friend was spotted yelling
An "Adsum!" to my name.*

— S. C. Norsworthy

9

The Exciting Years

“. . . even this early, Old Ridleians were playing a part in stirring distant scenes, and always in the future they would be prominent in the cast while historic events were being enacted.”

THE four-year patch of economic gloom which Ridley had just moved through was turning bright with promise by early 1899; the cheery air of the staff and of the School's boy-community was clearly telling of release from their private economic brake. If there had ever been a touch of foreboding in Ridley's atmosphere about her future it was completely dispelled. The Nineties were still not gay in Canada, but Canadians would also soon recapture their old native buoyancy, which Canadian youth of course had never lost. Old John Morrison, eccentric Montreal financier, had danced a hornpipe in a St. James Street boardroom one January morning in 1899 because the stock market was so strong; his much-publicized prance seemed to set the beat for the quickened tempo of the country, as Canada returned to progress and prosperity.

There was excitement in the headlines. Tall tales of gold in the Klondike had continued to fascinate newspaper readers throughout later 1898 and into 1899, and before year's end there would be news dispatches to thrill the boys from the distant scene of the last major British war which was ever to be fought of the old heroic kind. There were reports of a miraculous lamp which could be set aglow by electric power, and soon "entire cities will be light as day on the darkest night". Daring balloonists from France and England would give demonstrations to help Canada celebrate her next Dominion Day (and to inspire at least one Ridley balloon which would not hold water, let alone a dangerous gas).

Such stirring things in the outside world always infected school life with a touch of their excitement, and now they seemed to do so with particular intensity, no doubt because Ridley's own tempo was so definitely accelerating. Life was fuller, the days busier, never humdrum. Everybody wanted to

be a swordsman. Everybody had to have a camera. Chess was the proper caper. The Candy Concessionaire had a new enticing product, chewing gum encased in peppermint candy. Fascinating rumours kept the student telegraph busy, such as this one from *Poverty Flat*: "The whole Hainer farm has been bought for a new school." Or this one, overheard at the prefects' table: "Haverson bet Hoyles that Ridley would have a professional football coach by fall." Even if little of such corridor gossip proved entirely true, the new pace seemed to keep up until Ridley crossed the calendar line into the Twentieth Century without knowing it. Still later, it would all come to a full stop in a devastating fire which would destroy the first home of Ridley College, but to the boys that was the most exciting thing of all.

They felt their school was already mature enough to be tied to the fascinating events happening in the outer world, and in a way they were. Ridley's graduates were still few in comparison to those of the older independent schools, but even this early Old Ridleians were playing a part in stirring distant scenes, and always in the future they would be prominent in the cast while historic events were being enacted. Old Boys were fighting in the South African War, and C. C. Hayne and R. W. Millichamp, original Ridleians of '89, had been lured by the tales of gold at the grass roots, gold by the bucketful, by the ton, and had gone into the Yukon over the already-famous Trail of '98. The editor of *Acta* wished them all the gold they could want – "*and enough extra to present Ridley with a covered rink!*"

There were a host of changes in early 1899 to add to the feeling that Ridley was entering an exhilarating era. Painters and carpenters were busily freshening and repairing. New desks appeared in the upper forms – virgin timber for the pocket-knife sculptors. A new college cap was designed; no boy would be permitted to go downtown without the new, crested cap. ("Even a plain boy, if we had one at Ridley, would be handsome in one if he had one.") Attendance was well up over 1895-6, the low point. The College once again became a singing school during the winter, and by the next fall the Glee Club was reborn. And *Acta Ridleiana* entered the spirit of things by appearing in a new dress. It was reduced to a compact 6" × 9¼" size, but with no reduction in actual type space. The change proved popular; a record 500 copies were printed, and they were selling at a premium within a week.

The feeling of relief in the opportunity to reorganize after economic storm, which was pervading Ridley so strongly, came from the top as all good things do where there is fine leadership. As financial apprehension was at last dispelled, the Board had at once become imbued with a sense of urgency about getting back to serious progress for Ridley. Starting early in 1899, the Board was virtually re-made. Before the end of 1899, with the strain lifted, Mr. T. R. Merritt had felt he must resign as president, but he agreed to continue to assist as a director. Vice-President N. W. Hoyles, Q.C., took his place, but

only until the following February when he, too, felt he must resign. Mr. J. Herbert Mason then became president.

To assist President Mason on the new Board from 1900 forward were to be many new personalities. They included Mr. J. H. Ingersoll, St. Catharines, appointed vice-president (1899); The Reverend Professor H. J. Cody, M.A., who was also appointed a vice-president and who acted as secretary (1899); H. J. Taylor, St. Catharines (1899); A. B. Lee, Toronto (1898); the Reverend N. I. Perry, new Rector of St. Thomas' (1899), replacing the Reverend W. J. Armitage who had moved to Halifax. As reorganization was completed, Mr. R. Millichamp and Professor G. M. Wrong would join the Board (1901).

Before this reorganization was well forward in 1899, the Board had made the re-start. In addition to a plan for immediate physical expansion, in the first weeks of that year they disclosed their confidence that a new brighter day was dawning by deciding to increase Ridley's fees. Six months before they would not have dared such a step. Present pupils would pay the existing fee until September 1, 1900, but all new boarding students would pay \$300 per annum from the opening of the Michaelmas Term next September 11.

Before launching further into Ridley's new exciting phase, the following Ridley calendar is interesting as evidence of how little the basic college pattern has changed through the decades:

1899 *January 9 (Monday)*: College reopens; Lent Term begins.

February 17 (Friday): Half-term.

March 30 (Thursday): College closes; Lent Term ends.

April 10 (Monday): College reopens; Trinity Term begins.

May 19 (Friday): Half-term.

June 29 (Thursday): College closes; Trinity Term ends.

September 11 (Monday): College reopens; Michaelmas begins.

October 31 (Monday): Half-term.

December 16 (Friday): Michaelmas Term ends; College closes.

The School was now operating with two half-holidays a week, Wednesday and Saturday. The one custom that never changed was the two-hour study period in the evenings, for good or bad boys, bright or dull. The exception was Friday; it was a glorious free night, when the Glee Club concerts were staged, or a boy could have some other change of pace. To tell him that the compulsory study hours were the big advantage he had over attendance at a public or high school (where he could study or not study at home) would have won a skeptical snort about the worth of it, or that herein rests one of the great educational assets of an independent residential school.

THE NEW JUNIOR SCHOOL

EVEN during 1898 the first outstanding development for Ridley in the improving times had been hopefully discussed by the Board, at the Headmaster's instigation. It had been foreshadowed in their minutes: a motion by Mr. Frederic Nicholls had recorded earlier the view of the Board that it was desirable to plan a new junior department. The subject was so refreshing for a change that discussion was lively on where it should be built, when, how big it should be, and what land should be acquired. The Headmaster and Mr. Williams had solid support.

That they were very serious about a new Junior School, even if they had still to mark time, was seen in the excursion by the Directors, shepherded by the Headmaster, on a cold, wet November day the autumn before: he induced them to cross the canal to inspect – and admire – the Western Hill and the surrounding land. He was after more acreage of the old Hainer homestead.

The Headmaster had even gone back briefly to his old fund-raising role during the Michaelmas holidays of '98, with all of his old persuasive persistence, to see if sufficient cash for a new Junior School could now be obtained from unsubscribed (treasury) stock. Economic recovery was certainly beginning but he found his prospects were still cautious. There had been an inspiring contribution with which to make a start, however. Mr. W. G. Gooderham had offered to take up \$2,000 of the stock if \$10,000 could be raised in all. This gave the fund-raising effort a target and made it a challenge.

There was something just as serious, but more intimately important, bothering the Headmaster at the same time. He was disturbed when diffidently told by Mr. Williams that he had been offered a post by Rothesay college in New Brunswick, possibly as headmaster. This meant Ridley was in danger of losing a great master. Something had to be done. How serious his loss must have appeared to the Headmaster is reflected to this day in the struggle by Old Ridleians to find words which satisfy them to describe Mr. Williams, and to tell of their affection and respect for him. They say he was everything from "Ridley's Mr. Chips" to "one of God's very great Christian gentlemen". He was certainly one of those rare masters who love teaching for teaching's sake. If he had been lost, Ridley would not have seen his like again.

The Headmaster no doubt sensed this, and also that Rep Williams could become a living school legend if he remained. He certainly knew the mathematics master was not only a comfort to have near him, but would be irreplaceable. If a new building had to be delayed, he could at least obtain the Directors' approval for a new status for him. Fortunately, Mr. Williams had already acquired a deep attachment for Ridley, and it was with a sense of personal relief that he agreed to stay when officially appointed vice-principal and head of the Junior School, first established in 1897. That was also the

year in which Principal J. O. Miller (official title) was appointed to the Board, which perhaps helped to facilitate official assurance for Mr. Williams that if a Junior School building were erected he could "reasonably expect to be put in charge of it".

It was not long before he was "Mr. Junior School" for there was no time wasted in obtaining the building for him. The fund-raising outlook was so promising by March, 1899 that a Toronto architect, G. M. Miller, was requested to complete the plans for the new school structure, to proceed with specifications and to obtain tenders from construction firms as quickly as possible. By May the Headmaster could report to the Board that a low tender of \$12,661.00 had been received. It was at once decided that the building should be erected forthwith; as soon as \$11,500.00 was subscribed tenders would be accepted. An oral agreement had been reached earlier, of course, for the purchase of a second – and larger – tract of the Hainer land. By deed dated June 15, 1899, "the estate of John Henry Hainer conveyed to the Bishop Ridley College of Ontario Limited 56½ acres more or less at the price of \$6,000.00, and a grant of annuity."

If the "grant of annuity" is intriguing, generations of Ridleians were to see and conjecture about the old red-brick house and its grape-vines, surrounded by a green picket fence, which was situated for years beside Ridley's gates. It appeared to be an incongruous island in the midst of college property. It was preserved there until 1931 by the "grant of annuity" to Miss Henrietta Julia Hainer, daughter of John. The land purchased by Ridley in 1899 had been less about two thirds of an acre on which the old Hainer homestead stood, and Miss Hainer held a life lease on it.

The new Junior School building was going up by late spring, but its financing was not quite secured. New subscriptions of cash for stock had come in fairly well, but on June 1 the Headmaster had to report he was short of the objective. Under pressure of time, this was reduced to \$10,000. It proved enough, but only after a mortgage was placed on the partly completed new building, and the 7½ acres on which it stood. There was obviously great determination to establish the new school as quickly as possible, at almost any risk. Principal Miller may have been the most optimistic of the Board; he certainly had been the most forceful in driving the plan forward, with strong support from Mr. Hoyles, Mr. Mason and Mr. Nicholls. He was already foreseeing the day when the entire college would be moved across the canal; by 1901 he had the Governors seriously discussing the plan.

Only a portion of the new acres would be required for the Junior School itself, so from now on Ridley would have, across the canal, the spacious playing grounds and sports fields which the Headmaster had desired for so long. There was also ample room for the new Upper School he was dreaming about.

It is interesting to note that the editors of *Acta Ridleiana* had the same dream. And the Old Boys must have been startled to read all that was expected of them as student-recruiters for the Junior School:

“Towards the filling up of the new school there is no doubt the Old Boys can do much – with a strong association such as we have, not only should the building be full, but it should only be a fraction of 10 years before another large slice of that sixty-five acres is required for another building.”

There was reason to be anxious about new boys, of course. It would be another year before Ridley's roll of boarders would rise noticeably; with a new school building to be utilized, all of Ridley's auxiliaries must be stirred into activity. The twenty-dollar honorarium offered for obtaining new boys had not been a success so far, as those who had opposed the measure did not fail to point out, but Ridley always was favoured by the strong backing of the Church of England, as its Board of Visitors testifies. Their influence in recruiting was great. Throughout this period, the list always included six, sometimes seven of the archbishops and bishops of Central Canada. The Visitors named for 1898-9 were the Archbishop of Ontario, and the bishops of Niagara, Montreal, Toronto, Algoma, Huron and Ottawa. The College also had its Advisory Board, composed of educators, clerics and influential laymen, whose principal function (and value) was in recruiting. In 1898-9 it was comprised of Sir Casimir Gzowski, the Reverend Principal Sheraton (Wycliffe) and the Reverend A. H. Baldwin, all of Toronto; the Reverend Rural Dean Forneret of Hamilton; the Reverend Canon Evans Davis of London; the Reverend Rural Dean Kirkby of Collingwood; the Reverend Professor Steen and Mr. S. Carsley, both of Montreal.

That so many Anglican clerics and leading laymen were lending their goodwill and influence to ensure the well-being of Ridley, is significant of the School's continuing pronounced church-school character. It also helps to emphasize the importance which the Headmaster and his staff gave to religion, morals and ethics. Because of the Headmaster's firm stand, concentration on academic education was never permitted at the expense of religion. The sermons, speeches and published articles by the Reverend Mr. Miller throughout his thirty years as headmaster of Ridley College reveal the attitude which made this certain. In his time, Ridley never for a day swung even slightly toward secularism; no economic emergency ever saw affiliation with the provincial system even considered. A few years later he was an adviser, behind the scenes, in an attempt to change the Ontario public school custom of holding Bible readings after four o'clock. To the pupils this felt like a punishment. (*Postscript*: Although the Rev. Mr. Miller had ceased to accept invitations to preach, he was known throughout his Ridley years, and even after he retired in 1921, as a leading Canadian educator who advocated

both the teaching of morals and provision for non-denominational religious instruction in the elementary and preparatory schools.)

Construction of the building for the Junior School was rapid during the summer. At the Annual Shareholders' Meeting (October 20) it was reported: "The new building for the Preparatory Department of the College, on a fine site adjoining the cricket field, is nearly completed, and will be ready for occupation about 1st November, under the charge of Mr. H. G. Williams, B.A."

The building, for boys under fourteen only, was sited to the northeast of the present Lower School. The small circular driveway which now seems to go nowhere led in 1899 to the front door of "the most modern and up-to-date school dormitory building in Canada". Ridley's pride in it was such that it was felt it could not be matched anywhere in the world. Built at a total cost of \$16,107.62, it was a tall, three-story structure, with some stone and wood trim, surrounded by a total of about sixty-five acres of Ridley land.

The canal between the senior and junior schools was still an obstacle; it was now a river, for regular canal traffic had ceased, and if a high-level bridge would some day link the two banks, it would not be for another eighteen years.

Total accommodation in the new school was for thirty boys, Principal Williams and his family, an assistant master, and Matron Mrs. Ross Mackenzie (who naturally was a Scot as Mrs. Miller had found her). The ground floor held two class-rooms, a reading room, Mr. Williams' study, the dining room and kitchen. The assistant master's bedroom and a dormitory for ten boys was on the second floor, plus living quarters for the Matron and the Williams family. Two ten-boy dormitories were on the top floor. Within a year, a separate residence for Mr. Williams would make room for still another ten boys.

The official opening on Saturday, November 25, was the most impressive event staged by Ridley in her first ten years. It would have been a gala affair indeed if the opening ceremonies could have been held earlier in the year, but if that Saturday was a raw, dull November day, at least it did not rain. Visitors and boys braved the open together for it. Mr. T. R. Merritt had just resigned, so the President-elect, N. W. Hoyles, presided in the brief period he could act as president. A special railway car swelled the large number of visitors from Toronto, and they were joined after lunch by many citizens of St. Catharines and nearby towns.

The reports on proceedings of this memorable day do not mention the appalling boredom of the boys (with some noses a bit runny in the cold), and the strained if polite patience of the visitors, who had to listen to speeches from President Hoyles and the Headmaster – *followed by eight others!* They must have been relieved to go trooping up the hill to the flagstaff at the edge of the cricket field, where a new silken Union Jack was unfurled to cheers for

the Queen, and also for Ridley, when an imposing orange-and-black pennon was hoisted. (The pennon was presented by Mrs. Murray Alexander, Mrs. Miller’s sister-in-law.)

When a separate department for boys under fourteen had been established in 1897 it had been the first of its kind in Canada. Growth in boarders had been slow. Three boys had comprised the 1897 group: L. M. Kean, E. T. Hughes and H. G. Greenhill, with two more added in 1898, A. R. Trench and G. C. Tilden. But the small boys arrived in good numbers the moment the new Junior School was opened, and more came in the following spring. Here were the “originals” of the Junior School, as they arrived:

<i>September 1899</i>	R. K. Murphy	A. C. Hastings
	G. R. Eliot	O. B. Hastings
	F. F. Foote	J. I. Coddington
	P. Richardson	R. J. Leach
<i>Early 1900</i>	V. Ogden (Jun.)	G. P. MacDonald
	E. A. Murphy	R. M. Lyon
	G. M. Manning	L. A. Merritt
	R. W. Boyle	W. Colton
	J. C. Wilde	W. McNaughton
	R. G. Wilde	C. McMichael
	C. Richardson	R. McMichael
	C. S. Gzowski	P. Fisher
	G. V. Gzowski	W. Clark
	H. E. Hanning	J. P. Alexander
	G. A. Arthurs	

The boys of Mr. Williams’ Junior School would always share in Ridley’s traditions, but they would also develop some of their own and would live their own school life. This signalled that Ridley would develop in her future expansion after the English house system. She would grow by adding residential houses, each with a distinct identity of its own.

Despite Mr. Williams’ pride in the new Junior School on opening day, and despite the feeling (probably emotional) that the building definitely had “character”, it was functional rather than beautiful, and internally was soon found to be full of faults. Four bathtubs are not nearly enough to keep thirty usually grubby boys clean, or even the dozen of the first winter. It meant a ceaseless headache for the Headmaster, the masters and the matron. The heating system was found inadequate when a nor’wester howled across the playing fields that winter, to batter at its windows. Such a cold breath descended on the building during some winter nights that if water were left in a basin it would be frozen solid by morning. (“Sometimes we thought we were the coldest boys south of Baffinland. I still shiver when I think of getting out of bed some of those mornings.”) Yet boys and masters seemed to love

their Junior School with an abiding affection. They did not care in the least that it was not dignified with the title, Lower School, until 1902.

The Headmaster's feeling that Ridley was entering a brighter era was enhanced because of some relief in the staffing headache; the need to retain one-year masters seemed to be passing. Mr. E. C. Bogart, who replaced Biddy Barr as a junior master when the latter left to attend Wycliffe in 1899, remained until 1901. So did Clemmy Keys who had arrived in 1898. The Reverend N. I. Perry had been teaching divinity since 1899 and would remain until 1902. Mr. Hendry remained at Ridley until 1900, and Mr. W. A. Kirkwood who had joined Ridley's staff in 1897 would be a long-term; he would stay with Ridley for six valuable years until 1903. Then an even greater sense of permanency was added; Harry Griffith came back to Ridley to teach in 1899, taking over Moderns from Mr. Hendry.

Harry Griffith had never been far away; in his three years at Trinity he had been active always in the Old Boys' Association. He was not only the first student to return as a master, he was the only original Ridleian of '89 still at the School, if you did not count the Headmaster, Matron Cleghorn and those two familiar college characters, Shaky, the janitor, and Tommy, the cabman. As a student, Harry Griffith had won the top scholastic awards of Ridley twice, and also the Blake Medal for Manliness (1896). If it could not yet be sensed that he was destined to become headmaster of Ridley, holding the post for many years, he threw himself with typical all-out Griffith intensity into the life of the school. Energetic and versatile, he was fascinated by football and ultimately became one of Canada's great rugby coaches, yet his first contribution now, apart from his language classes, was to rejuvenate the Glee Club.

There was still another activity waiting for him. Mr. Williams was so busy with his new school that it must have been with relief that Mr. Griffith was assigned to *Acta Ridleiana* in his place. Mr. Griffith took the new title of editor-in-chief and a new staff produced the Christmas issue of 1899. His editorial boy-helpers were H. D. Gooderham, A. C. Snively, F. W. Ambridge and H. S. Stayner, with G. W. Cox and D. H. C. Mason as advertising space salesmen. (The latter must have been persuasive among local merchants for they sold three pages of space, a record to date.)

Ridley was still a singing school, but organized evening sing-songs had all but died out through other demands on the time of her limited number of masters. Mr. Griffith's vigorous revival of the Glee Club was seriously needed. Before long it had a new role; the singers became a sounding board for new college songs before their official *début* in front of the Old Boys, when they came over for one of their inspiring evenings. One of these was a parody of the American Civil War song, *The Blue and the Gray*. A more notable and lasting Ridley song tested by the Glee Club was a parody by Hastings ma of

the popular air, *In the Good Old Summer Time*. The school version was rehearsed by the Glee Club and heartily approved by the Old Boys on first hearing. As Hastings wrote it, this was the first verse:

IN THE GOOD OLD FOOTBALL TIME

*In the good old football time; in the good old football time;
Running 'round the enemy's end and bucking through the line;
The ball is off and we have scored, and that's a very good sign –
That we'll be college champions in the good old football time.*

Hastings ma was urged to write additional verses, which he did, but this first one was always to be most popular. Ridley was still singing it half a century later.

In the 1899 football season there was wild rejoicing when Ridley once more defeated both her rival school teams, largely because she possessed such a powerful defensive line that neither T.C.S. (27-0) nor U.C.C. (7-0) could score a point against them. They were not yet holders of the mythical trophy representing the Championship of the Little Big Four, the great institution of athletic rivalry of the future, for the footballers of the new St. Andrew's College would not be ready to compete for another year. But this second double victory in Ridley's short life gave the School a tremendous lift. The celebration of the U.C.C. defeat went on for hours, in every dormitory. The Headmaster had obviously passed the word to let them sing and cheer until sleep overtook them.

The entire 1899 team was to be remembered long for its undoubted championship calibre as a body, yet there were two individual heroes, Casey Baldwin and the coach, Biddy Barr, who had left Ridley to study for the ministry, but who came over regularly before and during the season.

The overlooked heroes were coaches Bill Hendry and Harry Griffith, who was back at Ridley to launch his football coaching career. They did the real work in readying the triumphant Ridley team of '99. Harry Griffith was the assistant coach, yet the team of '99 can be noted as the first Griffith-coached Ridley football team of the long succession of great teams coached by Harry Griffith in the next half-century.

THE TEAM

(comment by football reporter)

F. W. Baldwin (Captain, 2nd year; centre-half): He has had the entire confidence of his team. Its success has been largely due to his judgment and enthusiasm.

N. W. Norton-Taylor (back): Neat, cool player.

A. W. Harcourt (right half): Sub last year. Strong punt. Did excellent work in the Upper Canada game.

M. D. Kennedy (left half): on second team last year. One of surest tackles on the team. Broke his collarbone early but played in school games.

A. S. Trimmer (quarterback): Full back last year. Holds ball well in tight places. His work is worthy of the highest praise.

H. H. Charles (centre scrim): Second year. Good judgment. Quick and sure in heeling out the ball.

L. D. Young (right scrim): One of the strongest tacklers on the team.

J. E. Wells (left scrim): First year. Always played an earnest game.

J. P. Haverson (right inside): Third year. One of strongest players on the team. A hard man to pass.

A. C. Snively (inside wing): Plays strong, aggressive game; never gives up. Always the first man on the ball.

A. W. Treble (middle wing): First year. Great strength next year.

R. G. Duggan (middle wing): Has been great strength to the line. Aggressive player, effective tackler.

H. H. Wilkinson (floating wing): Second year. Improved in strength and knowledge. Ran well.

A. S. Ingram (right outside): Sub last year. Played hard, aggressive game.

N. W. Hoyles (left outside): The lightest but one of pluckiest players on the wing.

Spares: Stayner, Fitzhugh, McGiverin, Burroughs.

Average Age, 17; Average Weight 148.37 lb.

If a rising strength in school spirit was being achieved by the School's victories, a warning note seemed to strike in their celebrations. The competitive spirit of teen-age boys is naturally strong – so strong it can easily grow into a belief that to win is the important thing, by fair means or foul. Cricket's tradition of fair play was a valuable ally in keeping winning and losing in the right perspective, but the Headmaster apparently saw in the School's excitement over victory a need to teach acceptance of defeat. Another psychological reaction had to be watched; there was such acclaim for the footballers that if the hero-worshipping was not diminished some boys who failed to make a team, or who were not athletic, could acquire a sense of failure, or could feel they were nonentities amid the mighty men of the playing fields. Both Mr. Miller and Mr. Williams began to lay more and more stress on the premise that a team's victory was Ridley's, not the team's or its players. It was perhaps now that Ridley's policy became unshakable to concentrate on the team sports in the effort to minimize the hero-worship of individuals. There was nothing but sheer joy in a boyish heart and great pride in Ridley, and certainly no envy, in this letter from a boy who was not a footballer –

A BOY'S LETTER TO HIS MOTHER

Bishop Ridley
College

Autumn, 1899

B.R.C. – 27

T.C.S. – 0

B.R.C. – 7

U.C.C. – 0

B.R.C. . . . *Champions* . . . *C-O-L-L-E-G-E*

What's the matter with B.R.C. . . .

Oh, mother dear we had a most glorious game yesterday (two of them in fact). I suppose before this reaches you, you will have seen a full account of the match in the papers. I do wish you had been here to see the whole thing.

Mrs. Alexander was on the field in a carriage most gorgeous with orange and black, and so were numerous others. In fact both sides of the field were crowded.

We have all got most awfully sore throats from yelling and howling for about two hours yesterday afternoon and an hour last night, beside numerous times betwixt and between.

U.C.C. came over on Friday night apparently pretty sure of the game; so much so, in fact, that instead of going to bed at about half-past eight, as our fellows did, they stayed up and had a good time in Welland.

They were out-classed at every point. They were not in such good condition as our boys (who haven't tasted a pie, candy or ice-cream soda for two months, and most of whom have been at practice every afternoon for the same time).

Last night this was the happiest place in Canada. It is yet for that matter. We had a little service of song in Casey's room which lasted till about twelve o'clock. I think about every college song in existence was duly sung, a number of which were written when we beat U.C.C. two years ago and came in very appropriately. Then we had: *Hurrah! Hurrah! We're Champions again!* to the tune of *Marching Through Georgia*. Then, *What's the Matter with Casey?* and so on for all those who distinguished themselves.

About half-past eleven a couple of masters came up, but of course whenever they attempted to speak we sang *For They Are Jolly Good Fellows* so they sat down and made themselves at home.

We succeeded in making the night hideous. . . .

Yours very lovingly,

Douglas

Three cheers for Ridley!

NEARLY as significant as Ridley's football triumphs over both U.C.C. and T.C.S. in 1899 was their pioneering effort with the new set of rugby rules and method of play, which will sound familiar to modern footballers. They agreed on a test game with Varsity under the new Burnside rules, at the behest of their own Biddy Barr. He was one of the most ardent supporters of the new rules conceived by Thrift (J. T. M.) Burnside, who had also suggested the number-code system. His determined effort was continuing to rid Canadian intercollegiate rugby of the bull-force plays, the wedge and the Big Buck, but it would take a long time. Ridley lost the test game against Varsity 18-6, but this did not matter; of far more moment was the fact that their own great Alex Mackenzie was Varsity football captain, and the big question: would intercollegiate football now abandon the incessant line-bucking and scrimmage pile-ups of a game which often gave the honours to

brute force, with skill and speed second? ("Those pile-ups, with all supporters yelling, 'Hold that line!' while nothing happened but a lot of grunting and heaving, stole excitement from football for spectators and players alike. The football we played in 1899 inspired poor interest for the onlookers unless they were Old Boys with a strong school spirit.")

The ball was heeled into play, not passed by hand as in the Burnside game, which was designed to induce much more passing. The new offensive must make ten yards in three downs, or scrimmages, and that, of course, forced still more passing. In the American game of 1899 the offensive had only five yards to gain, which induced too many heavy plunges at the line to provide spectator interest. Yet, oddly, a main objection to the Burnside rules by the Canadian disciples of the *status quo* was that objectionable features of the American game would be introduced, particularly the flying mass-play, or wedge, guilty of many football injuries in the United States. But the Burnside game specifically eliminated this by an explicit off-side interference rule. The American flying-mass play saw blockers preceding the ball, which was held in the midst of a mass of players, the whole going forward like a juggernaut. The Canadian flying-wedge modified it only a little, and it was this the Burnside rules sought to eliminate.

Another inexplicable objection to the change was by sports writers of leading city newspapers. They declared that the new game was too scientific for ordinary clubs, an argument which only condemned the game they were trying to defend. They may have been infected with the affliction which caused university-trained journalists to be disparaged for years by old-style newspapermen, and which a Varsity-trained editor called anti-universitus; perhaps the newspaper sports writers would have treated the Burnside proposal more logically if it had not originated at Varsity. The controversy was notably heated by a Varsity retort that if footballers did not have the wit and reflexes to grasp and play the new-style game, they certainly needed one of bull-strength.

In any event, the Varsity-Ridley game in 1899 seemed to prove nothing, though it may reveal to footballers of fifty and more years later that at least these two groups were working directly toward their type of game. The debate on the merits and demerits of the new game was still proceeding acrimoniously in 1903, and after. Ridley, which had been the first Canadian team to test the use of number-code signals, remained ardent supporters of Varsity in the prolonged effort to persuade the Canadian Rugby Union, or at least the Intercollegiate League, to adopt the new, faster, more open game.

After the Varsity game under the Burnside rules the masters of Ridley decided they would prove football really did require scholarliness, and not just bull-strength. A game was arranged under the same rules between the Sixth Form (which included most of the school team) and "the rest of the

school", which included masters Griffith (captain), Bogart, Hendry and Keys. The difference was that captain Casey Baldwin's fine team used the number-code method of giving signals, while the masters secretly concocted a private code of their own. They so surprised the Sixth Formers with a code of signals in every known language but English that they created complete confusion; captain Baldwin's delicate signal system seemed to break down or blow up. ("On the first signals called by captain Griffith tumult reigned supreme. Captain Baldwin's heart was filled with horror as he realized what might have happened earlier in the season.") The Sixth Formers finished the first half down 12-8 and then discovered that the masters had still not used up their vocabulary of rare foreign terms. They seemed to have mixed Arabic, Erse, perhaps a touch of Gaelic, and ancient Hebrew with Latin, Greek and French, which confused Baldwin & Co. into final defeat, 28-12.

We do not know what this proved, and neither did the footballers at the time, but the contest was so much enjoyed that the same opponents then tried a soccer match. The result was the same, the masters winning 3-0, so calling signals in untranslatable foreign terms probably had nothing to do with the first loss after all.

During the season, Ridley's Seconds played St. Andrew's Firsts, still very inexperienced, but it promised the birth of Little Big Four Football in 1900.

Hallowe'en was a glorious night for Ridleians of all ages in 1899, with the thrill of danger in escaping from the school added to the excitement of the night. There must have been a tacit agreement by Authority not to look for steeplejacks climbing down the corners of the building, and not to check beds too early. The boys generally escaped detection. It is impossible to improve on a teen-aged boy's description of things as he saw them, so here is Doggie Mason's report to his home by letter after Hallowe'en:

"We rigged up a speaking and walking image of Oom Paul (after turning out a whole store I succeeded in getting a be-utiful false face, whiskers and all complete). Uncle P. was ready in time (a good deal of it) rigged up on a pole and, while the rest of the school was at prayers, three of us went out, soaked him with coal-oil and put him in position . . . he was lighted, and what a magnificent blaze he made, he burnt till there was nothing left but the middle pole, and then the remnant on the ground lighted up the end of our war dance.

"Subsequently, we put out all the gas lamps in this part of the city and elevated a few gates."

The hockey highlight of 1899 – of several winters, in fact – occurred on February 17, when the Old Boys organized a formidable hockey team, and arrived in St. Catharines to challenge the competition-starved School team for the first time. Several of their players had acquired great hockey repute, and the Old Boys were a bit over-vociferous in their confidence about "wiping the ice with the school".



FIRST BOYS OF THE NEW LOWER SCHOOL (Spring 1900)
Principal H. G. Williams; 18 boarders and 2 day-boys.



THE FIRST LOWER SCHOOL, ERECTED IN 1899
The first dormitory to be built at the present site of Ridley, after an
addition, and the ivy had caught.



LT. C. T. VAN STRAUBENZIE
('90-'92)
Royal Canadian Dragoons

Old Boys
in
The Boer
War



TROOPER J. G. McLAREN
('94-'96)
Bethune's Mounted Infantry



TROOPER W. E. FRASER
('91-'94)
Canadian Mounted Rifles



TROOPER H. V. ARDAGH
('93-'94)
Strathcona Horse



SERGT. KENYON LETT
('91-'96)
Canadian Artillery

The scene of combat was in the old city rink, with the Old Boys (who had borrowed Mr. Griffith and Mr. Hendry) routed ignominiously, suffering a 16-2 shellacking. They were good individually, but had not played together, and the School's fast forwards, led by Mr. Bogart, never let them organize an effective attack. The teams:

Old Boys (2 goals): goal, W. E. Caldecott; point, A. C. Kingstone; cover-point, W. Nicholls; wings, W. B. Hendry and H. C. Griffith; centre, F. S. Hobbs (captain); cover-centre, A. E. Dalton.

Ridley (16 goals): goal, Ambridge; point, Baldwin; cover-point, Mr. Bogart; wings, Norton-Taylor and Young; centre, Stark; Harcourt (captain), cover-centre (later rover).

The acrobatic goal-keeping of Walt Caldecott for the Old Boys may have helped revolutionize the stand-up-and-be-shot-down method of goal tending which then prevailed. His acrobatics in goal were hotly criticized by the School's players and the spectators, and he was scolded by the referee. The rule he seemed to be breaking will astonish today's hockey players and fans. *He refused to stand upright under the puck storm!* (The hockey reporter: "The work of Caldecott in goal cannot pass unnoticed. He persistently fell to his knees in goal in spite of the warnings of the referee and the objection of the spectators. When approached on the subject after the game Caldecott refused to talk.")

RIDLEY IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR

IN THE midst of the football season of 1899, Ridley had been electrified by word of a grimmer sport about to be played. The Boer War broke out, with the British Government finally convinced Krueger meant to drive the British out of South Africa and to set up a confederation of Boer republics. The young Ridleians did not understand the causes, they only knew that the British Empire was at war. In the way of all British schoolboys who are traditionally imbued with a combination of a valiant spirit and the deep emotion of idealistic patriotism, studies became dull and prosaic in contrast to debating the brave defence of Mafeking by Colonel Baden-Powell (Oct. 13). What had really caused the Black Week of December 10-15 was an important thing; Cronje won at Magersfontein, to frustrate Methuen's attempt to relieve beleaguered Kimberley. Why? Was Buller V.C. to blame for the failure to defeat the Boers? The Boers were astonishingly well armed with German small-arms and Krupp and Creusot artillery.

The Ridley military experts felt all would be well on January 10, 1900, when Gen. Lord Roberts arrived in South Africa as the new commander-in-chief, with Kitchener of Khartoum as his chief-of-staff. Most exciting of all had been

the raising and departure of the Canadian contingent. Then they heard with pride of Ridleians going off to war. You could hear that pride in their young voices as they sang *Soldiers of the Queen* with deep emotion.

Like all good independent schools, Ridley was to have many soldier-sons, and the first of them to see action were already on the way to fight in South Africa. During the 1899-1900 war period, Lt. C. T. Van Straubenzie ('90-'92) was with the Royal Canadian Dragoons, and would be Mentioned in Despatches for great coolness at Bloemfontein; Sgt. Kenyon Lett ('91-'96) was a Canadian gunner; Trooper J. G. McLaren ('94-'96) was with the dramatic corps called Bethune's Mounted Infantry; he was at the capture of Spion Kop (Jan. 25); Trooper W. E. Fraser ('91-'94) was with the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles; Trooper H. V. Ardagh ('93-'94) was with Lord Strathcona's Horse; so was Capt. F. L. Cartwright, also ('93-'94), who had transferred from the R.C.N.W.M.P. to fight with the Strathconas.

Gavin Wallbridge ('89-'90), of football fame, paid his own way to South Africa and joined the Canadian Contingent. Punch (N. C.) Ogilvie, another original Ridleian of '89, had gone on to R.M.C. and was now a commissioned officer in the Permanent Force, stationed at Halifax and waiting to go. The three Burkholder brothers all reached South Africa, with Roy and Hardy (both '94-'95) joining the regular British Army: they were still serving in the Transvaal in 1902. Their brother Edgar ('93-'94) was with the Canadians.

Capt. Thairs was now promoted to Major, as second-in-command of the 19th St. Catharines Battalion of Infantry, retitled the 19th St. Catharines Regiment in 1900. (It became the 19th Lincoln Regiment in 1912 and The Lincoln Regiment in 1920.) He was confidently considered by Ridley's boys as an authoritative military analyst, and the best possible source of unreported news from South Africa. But he had already discovered that the conflict was a puzzle, and that rumour is war's most prolific product. The boys nagged him for his military views on the strategy of "Bobs" as opposed to those of Krueger.

Major Thairs was in a quandary; the boys watched every news dispatch on the course of the distant war and had as much factual news as he possessed, but they wanted more, especially assurance that victory was close. Like the rest of military Canada, he was uncomfortable that the war had not been won long ago. So were the boys. They demanded excuses from Major Thairs on why the kopje-to-kopje tactics of the Boers on the veldt were check-mating the mighty British Army, which was soon the largest expeditionary force Britain had ever sent into the field.

He did his best. He enthralled them with the tale of a heavy bombardment of Kimberley, which succeeded only in destroying a cook's dixie, and with the story of Baden-Powell's ruse which had tricked Cronje's forces. He had sent two railway trucks of dynamite down the track into the lines of the Boers; they fired on the trucks with devastating results.

By this time, the boys of Ridley had replaced the currently popular songs such as *The Sidewalks of New York* and *A Bicycle Built for Two* with *Rule Britannia* and *Soldiers of the Queen*. Kipling's *Absent Minded Beggar* was a favourite, and also another South African War song which is nameless to Old Boys, but they recall the refrain, and these words:

*Say, darling, say, when you are far away,
Sometimes you may think of me, dear;
The music so sweet will oftentimes repeat
A message from your country and me, dear.*

The conflict on the veldt dragged on so long that war-gossip must have become very secondary to the boys' important personal school affairs, but Old Boys of the time insist this did not actually happen. Their copies of the *Boys' Own Annual* and *Chums* were crammed with South African War subjects during 1900 and 1901, and their drill-squads already had word of a new type of tactical drill in the making, growing out of improved gatling guns and the Boers' open fighting. The day was certainly done for practising the formation of a British square.

This was Ridley's first war, and perhaps it had more fascination for the boys than a war-sated observer of today could expect. Young Ridleians who would fight in the Kaiser's War certainly watched the Boer War's frustrations intently and listened to the Major with rapt fascination. But every prediction the Major made on a victory date was soon proven wrong, so he was in grave danger of losing his repute as a military authority. The Boer Commandos won his unwilling admiration as well as that of every boy in Ridley.

These were the wholesome days when boys – and men – believed without question in the clean unselfishness of patriotism and the glory of standing ready to die for your country. A military hero was a Victorian, a Henty, or a Kipling hero, a symbol to be admired and envied and even worshipped. To serve your nation as a soldier serves was more than an obligation; it was a privilege. If the pseudo-intellectual, shouting leftist liberalism, had been developed who today warps and clutters up the thinking process of some Canadians, with his scorn for the old-style idealistic view on the responsibilities of citizenship, he would not have dared to sneer with a supercilious lip at patriotism, heroism in battle, or just soldiering. Not before a young Ridleian.

The boys of Ridley stood firm in their estimate of the qualities of true manhood which the soldier represented to them, and remained enthralled by the distant sounds of war until the day (still many months away) when these verses appeared in *Acta Ridleiana*:

*Hark! as the morning breaks, sudden, unushered,
Treading the heels of the Spirit that passed,
Rings the clear bugle, exultant, triumphant,
Cronje, the Lion has yielded at last.*

*Weep for the fallen, the children of Empire,
Suckled to slaughter, with many a tear:
Cheer for the victors, the pride of the nation –
Theirs be the guerdon of deeds without fear.*

THEY LEARN THE PENALTY OF AGE

IF RIDLEY frequently felt impatient with the slowness with which the impressiveness and grace of school maturity is bestowed, it was checked in the 1900-2 period by harsh reminders of the cost of age: death. Obituaries of Old Boys now began to appear regularly in *Acta Ridleiana*. The Board of Governors had suffered several losses by death since 1888, but somehow these did not seem to touch the School so closely or personally as the death of still-young Old Boys, especially those who were victims of diseases which are now well controlled.

In 1900, word of the death of five of them had run through the School with deep regret, for each was well remembered and admired: Lew (Llewellyn) Price ('91), awarded the Blake Medal by vote of the boys, and Head Boy in 1897, had died of typhoid at Quebec City; C. P. Merritt ('90) who left Ridley in '94, had died of typhoid in B.C.; C. C. Hooper ('91) brother of Dr. E. M. Hooper, just now president of the Old Boys' Association, died of pneumonia at Toronto; Billy (W. M. H.) Dixon, a Ridley cricket great, and Kit (R. H.) Carr, a footballer of '92, had both just died of consumption in California. In addition, Robert Holmes Griffith ('99) younger brother of Mr. Harry Griffith, and Vivien Nelson ('96), a track-and-field Senior Champion, would both die while young students at Ridley in 1902; Dr. F. H. Thompson ('89) would also die in Seattle in that year from typhoid. Quartus (G. P.) Macdonald ('89) would die of consumption in Arizona in 1903. (*Note: Entrance years indicated.*)

The tragic toll of Ridley youths in these years from pneumonia, consumption and typhoid but never heart disease or cancer, illustrates the great advances of today in disease control, even though modern youths have new diseases to attack them.

Death while still young also overtook Ridley's masters with a frequency which would be considered rare sixty years later. Two young masters had died in the Nineties and a third would die in 1903. G. B. McClean, B.A., who had

been a fine Varsity athlete and mighty Ridley rugby player while an English master in 1892 and 1893, died soon after (in an accident); Mr. A. H. Burns, B.A., an English master from 1893 to 1894 was dead two years later from typhoid. The eloquent, young Reverend F. J. Steen, one of the most skilful and articulate teachers Ridley ever had, would die in 1903 of pneumonia in Montreal, where he was Professor of Church History in the Diocesan College.

In the course of only brief time, the death of youthful Old Boys and young masters had thus become a remorseless third part of the cycle of Ridley's years and would, of course, now occur as ceaselessly as the annual intake of new boys and the passing on of graduates on Prize Day. It would be quite natural had not so many of them died so young, and from causes which today have a low mortality rate.

This must emphasize the longevity provided by modern drugs and the great advances in medical knowledge and practice in the last half-century. We accept this today so casually we are not likely to pause to note that the number of Old Boys who died before they were thirty in the years prior to 1914, from pneumonia, typhoid and consumption was shocking. It is very clear that at the turn of the century and, in fact, until well after the Kaiser's War, life in Canada still had a strong element of survival of the fittest. It was actually survival of the lucky, for healthy, fit athletes were among the Ridleians to die while still young.

The toll taken in those days among the young children of graduates also emphasizes the medical advances which have since controlled so many of the diseases of childhood. Nothing could illustrate this more sharply for us than the series of tragedies in the Headmaster's family which, at his request, were never reported in *Acta Ridleiana*. The Headmaster and Mrs. Miller lost four sons in infancy – all from jaundice – between the births of Nannette in 1891 and her sister, Katharine (Kitty), in 1906.

Nannette, Kitty, and two other daughters of staff families, were the only girls ever to attend Ridley College. The others were Gwendolen Williams, daughter of Rep Williams, the Lower School's principal, and Joan Griffith, daughter of Harry Griffith, who became headmaster. All four attended Lower School. Joan Griffith became headmistress of Bishop Strachan School at Toronto in 1958. Nannette, who became Mrs. Laddie Cassels, was the sole girl ever to go on to Upper School.

It was about this time that the School saw the beginning of Ridley's Latin grace, after a red-faced failure in the initial introduction. The Headmaster had approved the Latin version of the English grace offered by Mr. Kirkwood, classics master, and had then left for California. This put it up to Mr. Bill Hendry, Senior Master. (He was called "Dean" by the other masters, as were subsequent senior masters until 1908.) Mr. Hendry, whose subject was mathematics, was drilled in the Latin grace in Mr. Kirkwood's Upper School study,

until he protested that he was letter-perfect. Next day, he marched into the dining room to introduce the new custom. It was a disastrous start, to the delight of the boys. Mr. Hendry, whom they admired, became confused. After struggling with several re-starts – “his face getting redder and redder” – he suddenly gave up and exclaimed: “Oh, well . . . for what we are about to receive may the Lord make us truly thankful.”

The introduction of the Latin grace was postponed for one day. But ever since all young Ridleians have been familiar with:

*Pro cibis quos accepturi sumus
Deus nos gratos faciat
per Jesum Christum Dominum Nostrum.*

THE COLLEGE IS RE-CHRISTENED

EARLY in 1900 important changes took place at and concerning Ridley, including banishment of two famous school characters, and a re-christening of Bishop Ridley College of Ontario, Limited. A long-planned move was formally made on January 11 to eliminate the business form of the title of the College and to have the name adopted which was already in common use, and which had a more institutional tone. Resolutions were passed by the Board of Governors requesting the Ontario Government to alter the Charter by dropping the word “Bishop” from the title, and also the words “of Ontario, Limited”. It was quickly done. The Board was shortly notified by the Ontario Government that its request had been approved. Since February 19, 1900, both the popular and official title has been simply: *Ridley College*.

The most relieved of all Ridleians in the change of name to its shorter form was Mrs. Williams, wife of the Principal of the new Lower School across the canal. The tall structure stood out clearly on its hill, could be seen for miles, and strangers on the roads identified it as Ridley College, with Springbank forgotten. The number who called to say, “I’ve come to see Bishop Ridley,” was astonishing. They would be met graciously by Mrs. Williams who heard “I’d like to see the Bishop, please,” so often she came to expect it. Unhappily, it was embarrassing to the callers to be told that Bishop Ridley was not available, that he was the Protestant martyr who had been burned at the stake in the year 1555.

Oddly, the first time the new official title, Ridley College, was placed on a legal document was to seal the purchase, at long last, of Tommy, the cabman’s “Nesbitt Estate”. Back in 1896, the Headmaster had been prepared to pay \$2,000 for his dilapidated house, barn, stable and manure pile, up against Ridley’s side door. But Tommy turned over his property for \$1,200 and

departed from a relieved Ridley with his pair of spavined hack horses. To make the deal possible, a mortgage had to be given on the "estate" to Miss Catharine Merritt, later Lady Pellatt. Her future husband, Sir Henry, had been a friend of Ridley's from the outset. His younger brother, Bullet (F. Mill) Pellatt, had been an active student and was now a loyal Old Boy (in the Imperial Bank at Toronto).

Perhaps it was somehow inevitable that the second famous Ridley character, who also dated back to 1889, Shaky, the janitor, should keep Tommy, the cabman, company in exile. He, too, vanished. His services may have been dispensed with for good reason, but *Acta Ridleiana* published a note of farewell on his banishment which was a little sad:

We regret to record the departure of an old inhabitant, Shaky. His business drew him elsewhere, and so no more are his gentle footsteps heard in the silent watches of the night.

No more in the depths of midnight darkness shall we call out the window to ask: "Where is the fire?"

No more will he come to turn out the gas less than two minutes after the bell has sounded.

No, his days are over, and Shaky is but a pleasant memory of old times.

They would miss Shaky, for his replacement might be more troublesome, and much more difficult to outwit. He certainly would not acquire Shaky's canniness in getting along with boys until he had a number of painful collisions with them, all of which he would lose. Shaky could have warned him for he had been losing ever since 1889. He could have told him that a rainy day was a sure sign of trouble. Shaky had always kept out of sight and out of their way in wet weather. He never knew what the boys had cooked up for him and he never wanted to find out. When a large number of high-spirited young scallwags are cooped up too long, a watchman is wise to realize he is sitting on a keg of blasting powder. Something is bound to explode. He was always scared to death of the dratted young squirts during the long winters, the *Top Flat* boys especially. That's when and where explosions were most frequent.

A companion entertainment to mischief for the Ridley boy of 1900 was in passing along rumours with embellishments. This was one of the spices of life, even if boredom is considered the great incubator of gossip, and the young Ridleians were neither bored nor gossips in the accepted sense. They were too busy to be bored and, besides, the sniggering whisperer of malicious tales about masters or students or their families was so disdained that a gossip of this type had to do his sniggering among his own gossip-mongering ilk. There are always a few. Like mischief, rumour seemed to be needed to keep life lively, though little time was not absorbed by meals, classes, sports, cadet drill, and the evening study periods. "Corridor talk" flashed constantly over the student-telegraph. If there was a sudden switch in duty-masters, with

Mr. Griffith taking over from Mr. Kirkwood, say, *Liberty Flat* had the word: "Ware Redney, he's on tonight," almost before Mr. Griffith knew it himself. ("We walked wary of Redney Griffith; he'd been a Ridley boy himself not long before, and couldn't be hoodwinked. Besides, he had a hard hand with the strap.")

Such mouth-to-mouth messages were for emergencies; the rumours carried on the telegraph were largely personally elaborated accounts of current news dispatches, especially about the war. Their source might be sheer imagination, or at best highly distorted private interpretations of big events. ("Without the Boer War, I don't know what we would have talked about; we were armchair strategists to the last man – and boy.")

The military experts had still been engrossed with the Relief of Mafeking (May 17-18) and what it might mean, and the invasion of the Transvaal, and what that would do, when one day for a few wildly exciting hours, they thought they had a real war on their very doorstep.

ABOUT all Ridley really heard of the Fenian raid on the Welland Canal on April 22, 1900, was a faint distant boom, which caused Dick Harcourt and Alex Snively to look up from cricket practice and stare off to the southwest. But the excitement was intense by next morning. Rumours flew at the breakfast table. Colonel Thairs (he was now C.O. of the 19th Regiment, and forever after to be known as "The Colonel") confirmed the report that Fenians had tried to blow up the canal. The 19th was ordered to mobilize with all haste, expecting to rush to the canal to protect it. Rumours then soared and ballooned fantastically among the excited boys confined to the close environs of the College – "500 Fenians are astride the railroad two miles from St. Catharines," . . . "the Fenian Army has wiped out a company of the 44th at Stone Bridge" . . . "Ottawa and Hull are on fire".

So much of this was believed that Fourth and Fifth formers solemnly made pacts to join the 19th, and grew anxious about their height, weight and chest measurements. ("Doggie Mason tried to grow six inches. Ambridge discovered his chest was an eighth of an inch too small, so he set to work at once to enlarge it; he was still working with the dumbbells at 4.30 a.m.") The most admired young man in the entire school was Willie Ogden; he had drilled last winter with the Queen's Own Rifles, and was on strength. For a day, small boys looked at him with the awe they would have shown a new South African V.C.

But that was all. The excitement died as quickly as the Fenian flare-up occurred. The disappointed boys went back to boring routine after a vain bid to have a holiday declared to celebrate – a bit belatedly – the capture of Bloemfontein by Roberts, in the same exciting way they had celebrated the

Relief of Ladysmith in February – a most memorable affair. (“Dr. Miller declared a Ladysmith holiday . . . the whole college assembled in the gym and paraded through St. Kitts in the rear of the 19th Regiment . . . College yells and songs about Krueger . . . Haverson’s dress was a fencing jacket, a table cover, and a tam adorned with a feather . . . Duggan was draped in a bureau cover, which gave him a knightly appearance . . . following the band was the ambulance corps with a stretcher bearing an effigy of Oom Paul . . . We then put all the costumes away to wait for Pretoria.”)

NEVER in the history of Ridley has there been so much interest in cricket, was the reporter’s comment on the 1900 season. A second eleven had as busy a season as the School team. But despite this enthusiasm, Ridley’s first eleven lost six of their ten games, two of the losses being to U.C.C. (by 4 wickets) and T.C.S. (by 3 runs). This was Casey Baldwin’s second (and last) year as cricket captain. He finished in a cloud of Ridley glory personally. He again had the season’s highest average in both bowling and batting, and he had scored more than 50 three times. He was 75 not out against T.C.S. It was long before such an individual season was matched.

Cricket had two rivals that spring, one arising from the sudden popularity of a new game among “the kids” of the Junior School, and the other a serious sport of the seniors. The game of marbles had inexplicably become tremendously popular in the strangely intense way by which new things often took hold at Ridley. It was explained that their marbles was not the *marmora* game played by the Romans, but was closer to *marbelum*, an old English game. It is a wonder the “winners keepers” method of play did not disturb the Headmaster; they had tournaments, but “winners keepers” was much more popular – and more likely to breed a love of gambling. Some boys had soon won bagfulls of beautifully coloured glass balls. Mrs. Ross Mackenzie, Matron of the Lower School, hoped the boys would forget it as quickly as they had taken it up. She used bottles of skin lotion in trying to heal the cracks and sores on small hands, acquired by playing marbles on the spring-wet ground. For awhile, the game of marbles was like the first robin, the herald of spring.

Fencing had also suddenly become a rival of cricket; or at least it was in the spring of 1900, for the upper forms had taken to the foils with such enthusiasm that a prolonged tournament lasting from April 10 to May 8 was necessary to find the school fencing champion. Alex Snively (ma) defeated Casey Baldwin, the winner last year and the favourite, and at length emerged from the long series of bouts as Senior Fencing Champion by winning them all. His final (with Haverson) was an heroic joust. The Junior Championship was won by Mud (N. W.) Hoyles over H. H. Wilkinson.

The fencing reporter commented on Ridley's outstanding swordsmen. He considered that Sky Snively, the champion's younger brother, was "a dangerous opponent to the best fencers in the tournament". Pete Haverson surprised by defeating Casey Baldwin, too, but lost to Alex Snively because he "relied too much on main force", unlike Gooderham who was "one of the prettiest and scienced fencers in the school". Doggie Mason, said the fencing reporter, was too deliberate, lacking dash in attack.

There had been so much improvement in their fencing ability that the bouts with the foils easily took the honours of that year's Assault-at-Arms, gaining even more applause than the heavily masked bayonet-fighters from the 48th Highlanders.

Fencing had arrived at Ridley, but its popularity waned rapidly because of lack of skilled instruction after Mr. Keys left in June, 1901.

When Casey Baldwin left Ridley in June, 1900, for Varsity, there was anxious team reorganization in all three major sports. Casey had been such a big man in cricket, football and hockey that his loss was disastrous. He was by now the most famous athlete in Ontario's secondary school sport.

He had starred in all Ridley's sports, including track-and-field, except in the sprints. He had been Senior Champion of the annual games in 1899, setting one new record, and he would have repeated in 1900 if Fitzhugh, Senior Champion with 24 points, and Stark with 23, had not edged him out by winning the dashes and runs between them. Casey won the shot-put, the high-jump and the running hop, step and jump, but fell 2 points short.

In cricket in the spring of 1899, he had held the highest seasonal average in both bowling and batting and was cricket captain. His 1900 season had been even greater. When he left Ridley, the opinion of *Acta* was that he had been the finest all-round athlete Ridley had ever produced. That might still hold. He was certainly the outstanding cricketer of Ridley's first quarter-century.

Casey's one rival for cricket fame in these early Ridley years was Alex Mackenzie of the 1895 period, who was remembered long for his terrific smashes with a cricket bat and for an equally fantastic throwing arm. He scored Ridley's first century and fully deserved high placing in the roll of Ridley's great cricketers. But Casey Baldwin excelled in every sport he tackled, and there was a touch of spectacular colour to everything he did, both at Ridley and after. Casey was Ridley football captain, to boot. Playing centre-half in the 1899 season just completed, he was easily the most consistently dangerous of Ridley's footballers. He finished a glorious football career at Ridley by a game with the Old Boys on November 11, for he would be gone before another season. Ridley had defeated U.C.C. in their annual school clash and had swamped T.C.S., 27-0, but the Old Boys won 11-10, in a game played in a sea of mud. They were better mudders, or perhaps the school could not hold the redoubtable Socker (Courtney) Kingstone.

In hockey, Casey was also a star; he played cover-point or rover, and was both a rugged competitor and a good ice tactician. (After he and Mr. W. A. Kirkwood, classics master, had planned the 1900 hockey season, Casey visited Montreal on December 17 to see his brother, M. D. Baldwin (Ridley '91-'92), ordained deacon in Christ Church Cathedral.) In January and February 1900, Ridley had played six hockey games and won four, with Cooney (A. W.) Harcourt the team captain, but Casey the key player.

When he went to Varsity, Casey starred on the U. of T. intercollegiate football team in his freshman year, and was later captain of an historic Varsity football team. He was also fencing champion of Varsity, though he only defeated another Old Ridleian, Schuyler Snively, by a single point to gain the honour. (Schuyler then won in the following year.)

There was thus good reason for the sports committees in the autumn of 1900 to worry about their future teams, and for an *Acta* jingler to mourn:

*There's a 'usky, strapping boy,
which is 'im
As is Ridley's special joy –
Casey's 'im.*

*'E ain't much on 'xamination –
(wearies 'im!)
But 'e's 'ead of all creation
in the gym.*

*... Then 'ere's to Casey Baldwin;
'E can work and 'e can play;
'E's a king, a chief, a soldan,
But alas – 'e's gone away.*

– Xemo

START OF THE LITTLE BIG FOUR

IN FOOTBALL that autumn of 1900, Ridley played a school team from one-year-old St. Andrew's College, to herald the birth of the Little Big Four, the unofficial "league" whose four schools would now compete year after year for a mythical trophy, but a fiercely contested inter-school championship status which was very real.

The Ridley-St. Andrew's game was marked by fine sportsmanship, and it was almost with regret that Ridley beat St. Andrew's badly, 53-0, in this first football encounter. But, as football captain L. D. Young said, it would have been an **insult** to St. Andrew's if Ridley had not played their **best game**.

The score did not mean that the St. Andrew's footballers were as inept in their inexperienced first year as the score seems to indicate. They would startle Ridley by an unexpected upset victory in 1901. Ridley had lost the great Casey Baldwin and all their forwards at the term's end in June, but through great coaching by three masters – Mr. Griffith, Mr. Kirkwood and Mr. Barr (who came over from Wycliffe twice to polish them on their signals) – they fielded the fastest and most prolific scoring team the College had yet known. They lost three games and won four, but compiled a total of 120 scoring points. They defeated T.C.S. by 35-0.

Ridley's defeat of T.C.S. at Rosedale was so devastating and unexpected that the Toronto newspapers were lavish with praise about Ridley's offensive power. The excitement at Ridley almost equalled that of 1899.

The success of the School team had been an agreeable surprise; so many old colours had departed that complete rebuilding had seemed in order, a process that often requires several seasons.

The steady flow of Ridley footballers into higher leagues, which was to become habitual, had already begun. The School already seemed marked as a promising training ground for footballers because Ridley's players were in demand as soon as they graduated. In 1900, here were the locations of some of Ridley's football stalwarts of the near-past:

Argonauts – Pete Haverson

Hamilton Tigers – K. F. Dewar, N. F. Kerr

Montreal – Norman Ogilvie

R.M.C. – R. H. Harcourt (Capt.); N. W. Hoyles

London (Intermediate Champions) – F. S. Hobbs

The Torontos – W. E. Caldecott (Capt.); F. S. Allan; W. Millichamp;
F. Lumbers

Halifax Wanderers (Maritime Champions) – S. C. Norsworthy

Varsity I – F. W. Baldwin

Varsity II – H. L. Hoyles (Capt.); A. C. Snively; H. du M. Charles

If the senior team was a surprise in 1900, nothing in Ridley's annals of sport over many years could equal the heartwarming inspiration of the smallest Ridley boys to appear on the football field. Something of the valiant spirit which was to generate in the hearts of the boys of the Junior School, and which would traditionally always mark them (for the seniors were watching), was seen when the new Junior School got ready to field a team of footballers for the first time. They were to play a fifteen from Lake Lodge Junior School at Grimsby. They practised with fierce will, averaging about sixty pounds per man, and their sheer grit in the game gave bright promise for future Ridley teams. The score was Ridley 10, Lake Lodge 12, at half-time, and then the junior Ridleians came on with such furious determination that they won, 21-14.

No triumph in all the history of school sports ever brought a deeper satisfaction to the hearts of Ridley boys. ("They strutted like game-cocks – and why shouldn't they?")

The year 1900 was a momentous one in athletics on a much broader base than for Ridley alone. The start of the Little Big Four was too casually mentioned above; it actually made 1900 the most significant athletic year of the next six decades for all four independent preparatory schools. From this time, teams from Trinity College School, Upper Canada, St. Andrew's and Ridley colleges met each other once each year – on the rugby field in the autumn and on the cricket pitch each spring – a recognized procedure. Except when epidemics or some other emergency intervened, it has been followed faithfully by all four schools, without formal agreement or written rules. The only by-law or regulation behind the two "leagues" – one football, the other cricket – has been spontaneous goodwill. No athletic commissioner has directed things; no governing body has existed. The matter of scheduling games has been achieved with each school considering the problems of the others, and any minor difficulty has always been settled by a friendly exchange of letters between the four headmasters. This has worked so well that the operation of the Little Big Four through six decades of competition might be studied with profit by many athletic organizations.

The honour of emerging from the round of inter-school games has been such a coveted and prideful thing that a trophy from a silversmith could have added nothing to the meaning of a Little Big Four Championship. There were Little Big Four trophies for other games later, but never for cricket or football. Within a very few years after 1900 the annual cricket and rugby encounters between the four schools were providing such a spur to the school spirit of all four that their value was beyond the ability of any form of measurement to assess adequately. Their cricket matches and football clashes were soon an institution.

It is true that the three older schools had been steadily making this athletic rivalry a beneficial influence during the Nineties, but the advent of St. Andrew's brought it to a new plateau of importance. It was now destined to go on and on, becoming a stronger and stronger tradition at each school. The annual contests on rugby field and cricket pitch may now appear to be taken for granted, but their value is fully appreciated by all headmasters and boards of administration.

Nothing to date has ever seriously threatened this wonderful athletic association between the four schools; it is hoped no unseen development ever will.

ANOTHER development of note at Ridley in 1900 was new attention to Oratory, or at least to a little training in after-dinner speech-making and even in parliamentary debate. The habit of staging suppers, always an event in a schoolboy's life, was also continued.

The first Ridley supper that year, in honour of the cross-country runners (Morrow over McGiverin, with Kean the junior winner), was considered the best Ridley had yet held, though there were no less than fifteen toasts. The reason for both the almost endless speech-making (there were fifteen responses, too) and the enjoyment was that the Headmaster was quietly teaching poise and ability to orate comfortably without tension or stammering and blushing. ("Mr. Miller was a kindly chairman; his little speeches between speeches put all the orators at their ease.")

The boys did not realize they were being coached as after-dinner speakers at the succession of form suppers (generally oysters) which were a regular Ridley fall and winter custom for a time, but by quiet suggestion Mr. Miller managed to see that diffident and self-conscious boys would be named to stand on their feet and talk. There are Old Boys who reminisce with gratitude that they had been listed to speak at a form supper. It somehow seemed much more frightening than getting up in class, and by discovering confidence so young they gained a benefit they had not understood at the time.

But again it was the small boys who stole the honours of the year. In late November the Junior School, now filled and soon to be over-flowing, celebrated its First Birthday with a dinner and entertainment. It was a gala event, indeed, but their wondrous football season (they nearly beat an Upper School team) was perhaps being celebrated rather than such a mundane thing as one year of existence. Let *Acta* tell of that big night:

Oyster soup and lots of it, a three storey birthday cake with its one candle burning, and no less than three cakes won (by finishing) in the cross-country.

Old juniors from the Upper School were invited, and were very nice and dignified and altogether superior, as seniors should be, but they condescended to pay some attention to the oysters and cake.

No study – the evening was given over to jollification.

Ridley was also organizing Mock Parliaments as another medium to advance familiarity with public speaking; they had a Prime Minister, a Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, and some fine debates on public issues of the day but with the Speaker of the House a harried man, as heckling was permitted. Perhaps they had even more fun with their elections, which were planned along constitutional lines but seemed to become rough and rude affairs. One by-election had ballot-stuffing and even theft of the ballot box as features. Bill Archer was the Liberal candidate and Dick Jones the Conservative; however, the voting was so confused that both had to be declared

elected. ("After two men had voted, both for Archer, some Tory rowdies stole the ballot box. Then the Conservative scrutineer and the voters' list were kidnapped. . . . The candidates looked a little the worse for wear in the morning, as each side tried to hoist its own man up on their shoulders while the other party wanted him flat on the floor.")

Soccer had been filling in the sports gap each autumn between rugby and hockey, as it always would at Ridley, but for a time it appeared that Hare and Hounds would equal the popularity and regularity of the already traditional Cross-Country Run. They had a great series of Hare and Hounds races in 1900. The first hares were McGiverin and Tate, who had finished second and third behind Morrow in the Cross-Country, a bitterly contested race, which saw Young in the middle of a field "utter a cry of despair, rage and disappointment, and sit down to bury his face in his hands". As the School hares, McGiverin and Tate laid such a foxy trail they finished far in the lead of the first hounds to come in, Martin and Kennedy, who then became the hares for the second race, run the following Friday. It was a tough seven-mile course, up hill and down, over many a ploughed field deep in mud from wet weather. McGiverin and Tate might have caught the hares in the second race but were fooled by the canal float; it was on the wrong side, and the water was too cold to swim. In the third race, another week later, the hares were Tate and Snively; they easily ran away from the pack, which became blown and sadly bogged-down in a series of ploughed fields.

Only the seniors ran in these gruelling races in 1900.

The Hare and Hounds followed the Cross-Country Run by two weeks. Here were the winners of the latter run in these years:

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Junior</i>
	(The Griffith Cup)	(The Masters' Cup)
1899	R. G. Duggan	P. D. Mitchell
1900	H. W. Morrow	G. M. Manning

The course in 1899 for the Senior Cross-Country had been changed again, to get away from chained bulldogs in backyards and farmers threatening the boys with a shotgun, but it was believed Duggan would have broken the old record. He was first to win the new Griffith Challenge Cup. To introduce it properly, the Cup was filled with apple juice and all had a sip from it at the Cross-Country dinner.

As 1900 came to its end the Headmaster could take pride in the manner by which the difficult years of the Nineties had been weathered. He could know particular gratification in the steady flow of Ridleians to the institutions of higher learning. He must have noted a peculiar fact: the shrunken student rolls in all years since 1893 had somehow not lessened the number of Ridley students matriculated to the universities. There had been a consistent quality

about the upper forms, and very few withdrawals for family economic reasons; it seemed likely that parents had been making any sacrifice to keep a son at school.

It is always in time of stress that the integrity of people – or a school – is tested. During the Nineties, the educational policies of Ridley easily could have been relaxed if the Headmaster had not kept his guard up. There can be pressure when finances are impaired to take in a preponderance of day-boys, or to sacrifice principle in favour of making a scholastic showing, or to pay special attention to the sons of wealthy parents. That risk was past and, if there ever had been such pressure, the Headmaster's integrity would have been too firm to permit him to push a student forward to a higher form unless fully justified by his scholastic ability, nor would he neglect an average student through unduly coaching the brilliant.

He was known to have opposed the theory occasionally offered that Ridley should not risk encouraging mediocrity, but should push on the gifted because the dullard has no special place to go. He was too steadfast about Ridley's high purpose to let this become policy. He refused to lose sight of the great target to which Ridley was dedicated – to produce young Canadians possessing strong Christian character, high moral courage and a sense of the true values. With Mr. Miller this always came first; despite his own scholarliness, he never forgot that if many boys were not studiously inclined, they could still become great men. He did not neglect the dullard, even if it was the lazy, but gifted boy who challenged him most. Every class had them – the careless, brilliant boys who could infuriate a master because they drifted along, tackling their studies furiously in short intense spasms, and then neglecting them until they were an essential last-minute drudgery before examinations. Because it means wasted opportunity, such students can cause masters to explode, but the Headmaster never seemed to lose patience. He never felt too frustrated to keep on trying to instill an interest in study for study's sake and for the sheer fascination of absorbing knowledge.

He would often quote the familiar saying about the delicacy of the surgeon, the shrewdness of the lawyer, and the versatility of the man of letters because of his great fund of knowledge – "A man's most wonderful possession, and the one to enrich his entire life." The Headmaster also never personally forgot the companion quotation about "the sense of responsibility of the educator". Because he did not, explains why he was a great teacher. It was a painful part of his integrity sometimes, for he would feel responsible and blame himself when he seemed to fail with a boy who had a fine mind.

One of his best-remembered challenges to Ridley's boys seems to have been a favourite of his about this time. Meant to spur them, his thought has been quoted in various versions by others, but it was never more pungently expressed than it is remembered by Old Boys from the turn of the century:

"Four personal parts of you grow as flabby as blubber if you neglect to exercise them constantly: your muscles, your courage, your virtues and your mind."

BRAIN STRAIN

*Do mouldy bats in fisher's hats
Drink ink with oil and glue?
Do yellow cats with red cravats
Turn cheeses black and blue?*

*Does a beaver at a banquet
Ask for French or Irish Ale?
Does a lobster in a blanket
Turn green or ghastly pale?*

*Does a tiger when ballooning
Feed on Tilson's pan-dried oats?
Does a porpoise when he's spooning
Frequent old sunken boats?*

*Do gorillas when they're thinking
Comb out their auburn hair?
Do eels when they are sleeping
Think they're in a rocking chair?*

*Nightmare? Not so. The work you pose –
It's a wonder we're alive;
To do our studies we arose
At half-past five.*

*Beware, O, then, ye masters,
Consider well our brain;
We are not everlasters,
Our minds won't stand the strain.*

R. H. C.

The New Century

“That we make so much of the new Lower School and the new Nicholls’ Hall – a rink – is simply explained. To the Ridley of this day . . . each one was more important than a new Ridley structure costing two hundred thousand inflated 1959 dollars.”

AS CANADA came to the end of the last year of the old century and looked into the new, Ridley College was a proud eleven, going on twelve years of age. Nothing in particular marked the historic calendar-line, certainly nothing disturbing, and there seemed nothing ahead in the Canadian society in which Ridley lived, or in the larger world scene, to dampen the optimism of Ridley’s Board of Directors and academic staff.

The Empire was still at war, but Britain felt so supremely confident of her secure position as a great world power that the policy of “splendid isolation” was still followed. The Admiralty distrusted the German naval law of 1900 which provided for the building of thirty-eight battleships in twenty years, and Japan was being impertinent again, but Britain was not really disturbed.

With a new awareness of the world around them, Ridley’s seniors had become keen international observers, and were now wont to talk knowingly of the implications behind distant happenings and of the intricacies of the endless diplomatic chess game. In Russia, the Social Revolutionary Party was formed to force nationalization of the land by terrorism, but they knew such things were expected in Russia. The Boxer rising, with the seizure of the Peking legations, seemed to be subsiding, but there was still confused trouble of some kind or other between Russia and China over Manchuria. To the south of the Canadian border the process still went on which was fashioning the United States into an industrial giant far faster than the old European powers realized, but we suspect the observers of Ridley also failed to foresee that the era of mass production was in the making and that this would eventually demand pressure selling. They had watched the American presidential election of 1900 with interest, however. A tub-thumping side-whiskered poli-

tician named Bryan, running on a platform of free silver and anti-imperialism, which had roused a lot of latent antagonism against Britain, especially among the transplanted Irish of Boston, was defeated in November by McKinley for the presidency. So they knew that Canadian and British relations with the United States would remain serene. In December, there had been some horse-trading between the Mediterranean nations, with Italy giving France a free hand in Morocco in return for a free hand in Tripoli, but that sort of thing was quite normal international manoeuvring.

Despite their new attention to international schemes and counter-schemes, it was all actually vague and remote to the boys' college on the Welland Canal. To Ridleians of all forms and ages there seemed nothing anywhere to present a threat to their pleasant isolation at St. Catharines, or to the equally comfortable isolation into which Canada herself was falling under the Liberal government of Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Far more important was the fact that the Ridley football team had been met at the station in Toronto in November by a tallyho lavishly decked out with orange-and-black streamers, to carry them in style to Upper Canada's games field, and that there would be a new hockey stick on the market in January (1901) with some of the curve taken out of the blade. Roy ma – "Bishop Windy" – came back from his Christmas holidays with a story about a noisy, smoking horseless carriage in Buffalo, and three wonderful episodes of runaway horses all occurring at once. But no one but Mr. Hendry, the science master, believed him, even if Roy mi said the same thing and even if their father was a clergyman. Nothing new or exciting had happened over Christmas to anyone else.

But they were only thirty days into the Twentieth Century when something signalled, though they felt it rather than saw it, that a great era had ended and a new age had begun.

The death of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, in the first month of the new century left a deep impression on Ridley, not from actual sorrow – she was too remote for that – but from the sudden attention which was focused on the great British institutions of which she was the symbol, and an upsurge of pride that they had been bequeathed to Canada. Canadian membership in the British family, then called the Empire, had been taken for granted, but now had new meaning. The smallest boys sensed something of this. They were sorry the Queen was dead and it would be strange to sing *God Save the King*, but Victoria had been so long on the throne that they were vaguely surprised she was so mortal she could die. To them, there would now be more reality to the symbol of the Crown.

In the way of students, especially those who still studied British history by reigns and dates, they were intrigued that Queen Victoria had reigned longer by four years and lived longer by three days than any other royal person in

British history. It was not until later that they would understand the true significance of her personal achievement, that she had accepted a crown tarnished by vice and ineptitude, and after sixty-three years had made it a symbol of private virtue and public honour.

The services of mourning, and of acclaim for the new King, were carried out at Ridley with deep respect for the symbol and what it meant. *Acta Ridleiana* carried no eulogy, but reproduced a photograph of Her Late Majesty in colour, the first time colour had been used. (It was ink of royal mourning – purple.) In a black-bordered square beside it were these lines of Tennyson –

*“May children of our children say,
She wrought her people lasting good;*

*“Her court was pure; her life serene;
God gave her peace; her land reposed;
A thousand claims to reverence closed
In her as Mother, Wife and Queen.*

*“And statesmen of her council met
Who knew the seasons when to take
Occasion by the hand, and make
The bounds of freedom wider yet*

*“By shaping some august decree,
Which kept her throne unshaken still,
Broad-based upon her people’s will,
And compass’d by the inviolate sea.”*

Queen Victoria did not live to see the Empire at peace again. Her son was king when a treaty ended hostilities in South Africa, with the Boers accepting British sovereignty. With Ridleian love for a nickname, even a royal one, Edward VII would always be The Peacemaker.

THE years 1901 and 1902 then seemed to slide by without a ripple in the even turning of Ridley’s terms, but exciting things happened, especially just when the days seemed as humdrum as their detested evening study periods. They were still the one changeless feature of the daily Ridley scene:

7.00 p.m., prayers;
7.15 to 9.15 p.m., Third Form study;
7.15 to 9.30 p.m., Senior study;
9.30 p.m. lights out, Third Form;
10.00 p.m. lights out, Seniors.

In the winter of 1901, the hockey team had the loan of the old city rink, the closest they could come to the coveted covered ice-surface they wanted. When they won six of their seven school games they had a good propaganda point for their covered rink. (They were soon going to gain it at last, but there was still no hint of it.) The true reason they did so well on the ice was not the city rink but the energetic coaching of Ernie (E. G.) Powell who was to be mathematics master for many years; he had arrived in September.

In the spring, St. Andrew's College was added to their cricket schedule of school games, to prove the Little Big Four was really in action now. Ridley won easily, and began dreaming of the day they would make a full sweep, would defeat all three of their rival colleges in all contests in a single year. (Ridley would go on dreaming of this until 1915 and 1916 when it came true in two years in succession.)

Only a handful of older boys were interested observers that spring as George Cumming, famous Scottish golf pro now with the Toronto Golf Club, laid out a 2,286-yard, nine-hole golf course, with part of it on unused Ridley land, which the Board had leased to the new St. Catharines Golf Club. The boys at first paid little attention to the preparations for a game for old gentlemen, but more and more seniors gradually began to play golf, and Ridley eventually produced one of Canada's greatest golfers, Sandy Somerville.

Even the Headmaster seemed restless that quiet spring; he went to work anew on his dream of a new modern college, to go up across the canal. He knew the first step was to sell the sanatorium they had converted into a school. In the Board of Directors' records for May, 1901, this appears: "It was decided to give Mr. E. J. McIntyre an option on the college premises on the east side of the canal at the sum of \$25,000, the option to be for three months only." Dr. Miller had apparently found a prospective buyer. He did not succeed in the sale for no more is heard of Mr. McIntyre, and the next year another option was offered to Mr. P. Crowley. The price had gone up: the option named \$27,500. A little later still the Board wanted "\$30,000 or upwards", but despite their rising valuation placed on an option the Directors were obviously willing if the Headmaster could work it out. He failed.

A group of soccer players tried hard to create more interest in their game by making it a spring game. They had discovered outside competition, and attracted a fair turn-out to a challenge game against Stamford "for the 1901 championship of Niagara District". Ridley lost 4-1, and the School lost interest as the boys seemed to do in everything that spring but mischief. They were ripe for almost any escapade an imaginative boy could originate.

One warm, lazy Saturday in June, with the School seemingly asleep in the sun, the quiet, windless air was suddenly trembling to strange, pulsing sound. In a moment a Scot could identify it as the distant skirling of bagpipes. Rory McDonald, itinerant piper, was marching toward the College to the chal-

lenging pibroch, *The Campbells are Coming*. His stirring air had stopped before he reached the gate, but in a flash a group of Ridley boys had him on the School's side of the fence. They wanted to entice him – while blawing his best – inside the School. But Rory was too canny. Aye, he'd go, but a few bawbees first, gentlemen.

The "millionaires" were told to dig down, while Rory stood ready for the invasion.

The first tuning-up discordancies emitted by his pipes were so startling that Lizzie Lumbers rolled on the grass in hysterics. But the march was on – away the proud procession went, with Rory piping *Bonnie Dundee*. A horde of wee laddies came from everywhere. They tagged along behind as if Rory were the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

In they went, on they marched, while the School shuddered and shook to their tramping feet, all striking the hard floor in unison to the skirling strains of Rory's pipes – up the stairs, along the hall – and now he was playing the lifting, swinging *Hielan' Laddie*. Then down the stairs, along the hall – and it was *Blue Bonnets Over the Border*, the pipes were playing, with the School echoing as resonantly as a giant pipe-organ.

It had to come to an end, of course, and it did, but the bagpipe serenade lasted far longer than they had dared to hope. A master who was bewildered, astonished and indignant, all three at once, and who looked as if he had just awakened to think he was having a nightmare, cut off the performance. Perhaps he caught a whiff of Rory's breath with its strong distillery taint, for he was ushered out in a hurry. But it had been fun while it lasted.

No doubt for want of something better to discuss, the senior and junior students all began a heated discourse at the same time on the correct terms which adults should use when speaking of them. The seniors suddenly resolved to stop using the term "kids" for Mr. Williams' small charges; it was not dignified. (The juniors seemed to be in training as gardeners; they were busily at work on a lot of new flower beds.) "Children" was barred; it meant six-year-olds and younger. The term "lad" was all right unless an adult used it patronizingly. The general consensus was that "boys" meant those from seven to fourteen only. The dignified upper forms were in a quandary; the term "young man" sounded like a master being stern in class. A fifth former propounded that he detested the term "fellow"; he associated it with lout. (A Greek scholar suggested *ephebo*.)

Nothing much seems to have been settled, and no guide is recorded to stop the Ridley historian from repeated references to "boys". It's a problem. There is not an entirely satisfactory English word available to use. Teenager is execrable; adolescent suggests only sexual maturing; juvenile is today contaminated by too frequent a link with "delinquency". The term "youth" is generally good for those fourteen to eighteen, but the historian is wary of

drifting into the use of the plural, youths, which has an ugly sound. We'll have to stay with boys and Old Boys, used with respect, of course.

THE PHYSICAL CULTURE FETISH

IT was no doubt the prevailing restlessness of the School which made it so vulnerable to the first intriguing new fad to come along. One came. The whole student body, and even some masters, suddenly became infected by the physical culture fetish. It was sweeping the United States.

The Ridleians of all forms and ages again disclosed they did nothing half-way; they either went for something all-out or ignored it, and in a school which placed such importance on the premise, right or wrong, that a strong, alert body means an alert mind, the sudden flood of "exercisers" on the market, accompanied by countless magazine and newspaper articles on muscle-building, was certain to have an instant impact. Within a short time every dormitory at bedtime saw lithe, young, naked bodies going through violent contortions, while others made muscle with dumbbells, or worked with deadly seriousness to some "professor's" method of developing a miracle physique.

It is unlikely that a new fad ever swept through Ridley with such completeness or with more earnestness. Boys would exercise before daylight. The Noble Three would even dash surreptitiously from studies at frequent intervals just to do push-ups for thirty seconds, then dash back again. Some Form IV boys stopped eating pie, an astonishing sacrifice, but quite true.

The few books in the library on the subject had vanished early, but the boys had been filling out strong-man advertising coupons, and every mail brought new booklets from the United States on how to become the world's mightiest modern Hercules, vest-pocket size if necessary.

Something had to be done about it, for the School was being turned into a gigantic gymnasium, with almost every boy following his own or his favourite "professor's" method of exercise. Boys were going to suffer heart attacks, or some harmful strain, unless the new physical culture cult was sensibly directed. Colonel Thairs was so astonished at the sudden acceleration of his drill squads who actually suggested doing physical exercises – *with wooden rifles!* – that he investigated and discovered what was going on. He saw the Headmaster about it, and Mr. Miller was probably never so universally popular than when he seemed to become a convert and invited Professor Barton of Hamilton Y.M.C.A. to visit Ridley (for a fee). The professor instructed the boys on the wisest way to take advantage of the physical gifts they possessed.

In the contrary way of boys, none had bothered to recall that muscle-

building and physical fitness had been the sole purpose of the regular gym classes, and the moment an increased physical culture programme was made part of the curriculum, the whole thing suddenly became less attractive. But perhaps some lasting good came from the splurge in muscle-making.

A special medical examination related to exercise was a wise echo, which became habit. Each boy was examined to determine if too much, or any particular type of exercise could be harmful. Now an automatic procedure, it was a progressive innovation for these times.

Both cricket and football were just so-so in 1901. The cricket eleven, captained by Cooney (A. W.) Harcourt, who was replacing a legend and doing it well, had played ten matches and won five, and now, in the autumn, the footballers played eight games and lost four. There was nothing spectacular about their annual games, either. But the Hare and Hounds run by the seniors that fall was such an hilarious event despite falls, barbwire cuts, trouble in a pig-yard, having a dog "sicked" on them and a scolding by a farmer ("You young fellers are crazy; go home and put some clothes over yer bare shanks") that it would be long remembered. Here is what made it so memorable: The Hares left from in front of the School, with their well-loaded bags, and when last seen were sprinkling paper and laying a good trail. Then the Headmaster let the Pack of Hounds go. In due course – but strangely early – they came panting back from "The Post", the point where the Hounds could race directly for the College without bothering about the trail. They were well bespattered with the evidence of a rough chase as they rushed to the astonished time-keepers who had not expected them for ten minutes.

Wrong trail! Wrong post! The Hares had not yet even come into sight!

Forty disgusted Hounds then saw the Hares coming from an entirely different direction, after a run of seven miles.

The Junior School was in convulsions. They had held their Hare and Hounds run the day before, and the seniors had followed their paper trail!

The Cross-Country Run was followed by a supper that year which also had some rare features. Sutfin beat the seniors over the (about) seven miles, and the first junior was Sclater ma. Then all adjourned for the annual cross-country supper, to find a sacred Ridley tradition had been broken: *Ladies were guests!* The Old Boys were behind it, some of those who were wont to boast there was never such a sissy thing as a dance held, or ladies at a Ridley dinner, in their day.

A new Ridley trend was definitely being launched. A short time before an unheard-of thing had happened. A notice said dancing lessons would be held. Braving ribald jeers, about twenty slightly red-faced boys turned up to learn how to dance the waltz and two-step with light or heavy feet. Mrs. Miller played the piano at the lessons and often helped with instruction. To have ladies at a Ridley oyster supper on top of that somehow seemed a

natural second step. By setting out to polish the boys' drawing-room manners, perhaps Ridley was seeking a little more sophistication.

The presence of the ladies at the Cross-Country supper did not deter Old Boy reminiscing, including a tale by Augusta Haya ('90), who was visiting from Spain. He declared his story proved that cricket could be a very dangerous game. He had his big toe neatly chopped off on Ridley's cricket field in 1891. Very carelessly he had let it get in the sprocket of the heavy lawn roller just as somebody pushed it.

"My first visitors in Matron Cleghorn's little hospital were Pussy Wadsworth and Nigger Darrell. They were grinning with their usual fiendish glee," recalled Haya. "But they had with them my first present as a patient – a wonderful thing," he went on, "*it was my big toe pickled in alcohol.*" (Shrieks from the ladies.)

Then it was 1902 – and ringing cheers from the hockey players. They knew that in the spring work would start on their covered skating rink, at last. It was being achieved through the inspiration, desire and a considerable contribution in cash by Mr. Frederic Nicholls, one of the most enthusiastic and energetic of Ridley's governors. Fittingly, it would be called Nicholls' Hall.

First, another building project was carried through. An extension was added to the Lower School – now its correct title – which the pessimists had declared "a reckless experiment". We assume the editors of Ridley's annual calendar extracted a little extra satisfaction in stating: "The fact that the school has been filled to overflowing during the second term of its existence is sufficient proof that parents have appreciation of this new venture."

Accommodation for fifteen additional juniors – and a small gymnasium – were now provided by the new wing. For the term ending in June, 1902, thirty-nine boys had been on the roll of the Junior School, with ten ready to graduate to the Upper School. That roll was interesting, for it showed that Ridley was already a family school; all of the following had brothers at Ridley: Eirick ma, Lee ma, Sclater mi, Norsworthy mi, Wilde ma, Fowler, Glen, Prince (whose older brother had just graduated) Johnson, Kean.

There already had been several sets of three brothers – max, ma and mi – and there would be many more. There would be several sets of four brothers, and one of five. It was too soon for sons to follow their fathers to Ridley but, in time, boys would be following their grandfathers and grand-uncles and ultimately great-grandfathers through the gates, for the School was destined to be virtually adopted by generation after generation of many Canadian families. (*Postscript*: In 1958, a total of eighty-six boys were attending Ridley who were sons, stepsons or grandsons of Old Ridleians, out of a roll of approximately 400 students.)

Nicholls' Hall, a combination assembly hall, rink and indoor recreation centre, was erected rapidly just to the west and south of the Lower School. It

was decided to postpone Prize Day until September, when the presentation ceremony could link with the official opening.

Perhaps the progress of the construction work which they watched from across the canal had something to do with it, but school life seemed to quicken that spring, and there was an air of success, of achievement. It was reflected in the 1902 cricket season, which was one of the busiest and most interesting Ridley had yet experienced. Three elevens were in action, and the fact that the school team did not do better than win four, lose four and tie one failed to detract from the feeling that the cricket season was wonderfully successful. An historic cricket day, June 4, was one reason. On that memorable day St. Andrew's College invaded St. Catharines and Ridley's sparkling green cricket ground *en masse* – three elevens and a fine crowd of supporters. It was the largest invasion by one school Ridley College had yet enjoyed. (*Postscript*: The association between St. Andrew's and Ridley has been particularly close ever since 1900, when an honoured Old Ridleian, D. Bruce Macdonald, was appointed headmaster of St. Andrew's.)

Ridley's School team lost earlier to Trinity University by 53 runs, but defeated Gordon McKay's noted Toronto XI in an exciting game by 10 runs. Their later match with U.C.C. was fittingly described by the cricket reporter's question: "Did anybody ever hear of Waterloo?" They had Upper Canada out for only 32 first innings runs, then Ridley were all out for a humiliating 17. But on June 4, things were brighter; they downed the St. Andrew's team, 77-54, in a fine game, and later defeated T.C.S. decisively, by an innings.

Mock (F. A.) McGiverin was Ridley's cricket captain in '02. He was puzzled why Ridley won all their away games, but lost all their home games but one. J. E. Grasset won the J. W. Wood Bat for the highest batting average, with Mock winning the H. B. Greening award for the highest score in a school game.

Ridley's second eleven lost by 9 runs on the St. Andrew's cricket day, and the latter's youngsters on the third eleven both out-bowled and out-batted Ridley's Lower School eleven, even though they were bolstered by five Upper School players. They lost by 71 and 86 to 20 and 21.

The St. Andrew's visit on June 4 was easily the highlight of Ridley's summer in 1902. It heralded many wonderful cricket days in the long association between the two colleges, which was always marked by warm friendliness.

At the normal term's end in June there had not been the usual Prize Day to mark it, but the Headmaster could review the experiences and progress of Ridley to date with justified satisfaction. He was elated; ninety-four boarders were on the roll, which clearly said that Ridley's progress was safely under way once more after the long period since 1893 when the College often

seemed to be struggling just to mark time without losing ground. So many new boys had arrived for the term that the School had not become its usual compact family, with everyone acquainted, until well after the Michaelmas holidays. The School had then shaken down efficiently and happily, and he could look forward to steady progress. The new Junior School and its early addition, with Nicholls' Hall also under construction, were both part of the exhilarating atmosphere which prevailed.

It is obvious that the Ridley habit of ten years before of bestowing nicknames on virtually everyone had not diminished. The dubbings had changed, but so many strange appellations were now in common use that in some instances the identity of the owners is forgotten. Old Boys are at a loss to recall who owned these – Buckshot, Bonny, Dutchy, Putty, Rabbit, Snooks and Slim. Yet they were in such familiar use they appeared in *Acta*. Still well remembered are Windy (C. M.) Bricker; Skunk (J. O.) Leach; Gillie (A. R. F.) Gilbert; Grassy (J. E.) Grasset; Cooney (A. W.) Harcourt; Big Mud and Little Mud (N. W. and H. L.) Hoyles; Pig (J. R.) Jones; Mike (H. G.) Kennedy; Pope (W. T.) Lee; Doggie (D. H. C.) Mason; Dutch (H. M.) Wilson; Topheavy (E. G.) McDougall; Mock (F. A.) McGiverin; Cocky (P. D.) Mitchell; Lanky (V.) Nelson; Katie (N. C.) Nicholls; Counter (S. C.) Norsworthy; Sky (S. C.) Snively; Fuzzy-wuzzy (H. C.) Taylor; Fatty (G. J.) Tuckett, and Loppy (L. D.) Young.

It was early in the summer of 1902, toward the end of the academic year, that an honour was paid to the Rev. Mr. J. O. Miller by Trinity University, which temporarily brought into the open again the division in theological viewpoint held by the High churchmen and the Evangelicals of the Church of England. It happened in this way:

On June 25, 1902, at the Jubilee Convocation held during the three-day celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the University of Trinity College, the degree of Doctor of Civil Law was conferred on the Reverend John Ormsby Miller, M.A., Principal of Ridley College. The Hon. Richard Harcourt, M.A., Minister of Education of Ontario, and father of two sons at Ridley; (Sir) William Osler, M.D., F.R.C.P., John Hopkins University; Judge Senkler, a director of Ridley; the Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, and other distinguished Canadians, also received this honour.

The degree bestowed on the Headmaster of Ridley College, an Evangelical Anglican boys' school, by an institution founded and supported by High Anglicans, had an unfortunate and revealing sequel; the Hon. Sam H. Blake, Q.C., never again attended a Ridley Board meeting, and he withdrew the Blake Gold Medal for True Manliness. An ardent Evangelical, Mr. Blake had been deeply involved in the Anglican strife amid which Wycliffe College had been founded. He did not formally resign from the Board. His name continued to be listed until his death in 1914; but his attitude sharply reminded both High

churchmen and the Evangelicals that lingering bitterness still existed between the two divisions of the Church of England, and that the day had not yet been reached when it would be seen that there was reasonable room for two Anglican theological concepts. But there were many Anglicans, both High and Low, who felt that the honour paid by Trinity to the Headmaster of the Evangelical boys' school was wholly conciliatory, and thoughtfully intended as a healing gesture.

Unhappily, at this same moment some High churchmen were reviving the old bitterness as Trinity was being forced to consider terms of federation with the University of Toronto. Federation with the rival university had now become imperative for Trinity, and the frustration and indignation of its supporters caused some of them to blame the lack of full Anglican support of Trinity on the Low churchmen who had founded and now supported Huron College, London, Wycliffe and Havergal colleges, Toronto, and Ridley College, St. Catharines. In their minds, it was not competition with the University of Toronto which caused Trinity's difficulties; these were the rivals which had created the situation in which Trinity found itself. The bitter decision had no doubt been taken before the Jubilee Convocation, at which the Headmaster of Ridley was honoured.

The federation of the two universities took place early in 1903. Trinity had to suspend its right to confer degrees in all courses but divinity. Terming this a "calamitous necessity", the Bishop of Toronto, the Rt. Rev. Arthur Sweatman, placed his resentment toward the Low churchmen on the record, in a letter to the Provost of Trinity, dated July 8, 1903. It is quoted here from *A History of the University of Trinity College, 1852-1952*:

"But it appears to my mind, after reviewing the past history of Trinity, that the intentions of the Founder were frustrated and set aside before I was called to the Diocese, when the party attacks upon the teaching of the College led to the establishment of a rival Church of England seminary in Huron College, London, and that this frustration was further accomplished by the subsequent establishment of Wycliffe College.

"I am convinced too that the divisions in the Church, during the period when two rival institutions were brought into being, are largely responsible for that lack of support, financial and otherwise, accorded to Trinity University which has reduced it to the position which has made federation with the Provincial University a practically vital necessity."

The heartburnings and dissensions about university federation had not been Trinity's alone. As related in the Prologue to this work, Victoria University (Methodist), Knox College (Free Presbyterian), St. Michael's College (Roman Catholic), the Toronto Baptist College (McMaster-to-be) and Wycliffe College (Evangelical Anglican) had all known wearisome debates, but each had seen the obvious advantages in becoming a part of a large,

well-equipped university. By 1900 all had become federated, with the sole exception of Trinity College (High Anglican).

Wycliffe, the Baptist and Roman Catholic colleges had been first to see how federation brought advantages which far overshadowed the alternative of remaining a partially equipped independent institution, with limited financial assistance from the province. Victoria and Knox had soon seen the light, too. In resisting what the other Ontario denominational institutions had accepted, Trinity College had known much frustration, with resentment mounting. Trinity was now forced by economics to ask for federation; it was done unwillingly and bitterly.

Once the federation of Trinity with the University of Toronto was an accomplished fact, outward evidence subsided of the 1903 flare-up in the old conflict between the exponents of the two Anglican theological concepts. But resentment still smouldered a while underneath. Far more time than the Evangelicals expected was required to smooth over the breach, or at least enough to permit the two Anglican groups to live in honour with themselves and each other. In 1910, tentative but sincere overtures were made by Wycliffe College to Trinity which were very conciliatory and meant to launch consideration by the two institutions of means to have just one Anglican School of Divinity. The approach was rejected.

The Evangelicals were first to reach the point of peace when they found it difficult to believe that the bitterness of their differences in the previous century had ever happened, let alone could be continued. (The proof is in the many Ridley boys who now go to Trinity as well as to Wycliffe.)

IMPERCEPTIBLY, Ridley had broadened her horizons. The intense interest of the boys in the South African War helped, but principally it came from Dr. Miller's effort in Saturday morning talks, and in enlisting lecturers to speak at Ridley on Canadian and world affairs. Also, on each Prize Day, graduates were always asked by the Headmaster to report back to their old school on new scenes and experiences. He wanted all the forms to understand more about the way of life of other peoples, if only to help them appreciate their own. The result was that Ridley's boys as a body rapidly grew out of the restricted viewpoint which too often marked educational institutions in the Victorian age. History and geography were assiduously taught by dates and maps, but understanding of other peoples of the world was limited. Boys grew to manhood with no appreciation of any values or customs other than their own, and often lived out their lives in a foolish superiority. Dr. Miller knew that Canadians were not yet doing enough travelling to broaden their views and that there was still lack of reading matter to help.

In a day when newspapers were not carrying extensive or frequent features

on conditions and scenes in foreign lands, or even of parts of Canada other than their own corner of it, the editors of *Acta* were making a valuable contribution to student knowledge. By soliciting such articles from her graduates, Ridley's journal held its own well in breadth and depth with all other collegiate and even university publications. Ridley was now getting scores of them through the publication exchange list and could make a comparison.

There was excellent diversity in the subject matter of the Old Boys' articles on the world beyond Ridley. One of these (Midsummer Issue, 1902) was a study of Newfoundland by S. C. Norsworthy ('95). It concluded with this interesting comment on Newfoundland's attitude at that time toward becoming the tenth Canadian province:

"As for Confederation with Canada, it is, I think, bound to come in time, but will take a number of years yet. Curiously enough, those most opposed to it here are the fishermen, who would be the first to benefit by the reduced tax which would at once result, Newfoundland's duties at present being from 30 to 40 per cent all around. But they . . . seem to have got the idea that once they become a part of Canada the very air they breathe will be taxed."

In the Easter issue of 1903, Robert F. Patterson ('92-'97) wrote a colourful description of The Durbar at Delhi. It followed an interesting letter from Con Cartwright ('90-'93), written at Mex Camp, Alexandria, on life in Egypt. Mr. C. M. Keys, a former master, now on the staff of the *Wall Street Journal*, sent along a fine economic analysis, called *The Spirit of the Age*. An anonymous Ridleian told of his experiences on a crowded C.P.R. harvester train to the Canadian West. Another wrote on *Education in the Levant*.

To their own satisfaction, *Acta*'s editors also proved the term "power of the press" was a reality when the School's publication felt it had revealed its influence on Authority. It campaigned urgently for the election of Old Boys to the Board of Directors, suggesting that a start be made with the nomination of at least one. *Acta* did not know how successful they were to be, for the Board would go much farther. They not only agreed with *Acta* but amended the constitution to give the Old Boys' Association the power to elect three Board members annually. The first to go from student to director was Courtney Kingstone (elected December 23, 1903).

Give *Acta* top marks for this, for thus began the process which was eventually to see the Board composed of a majority of Old Ridleians.

If *Acta Ridleiana* was able to bask in its influence, Ridley had produced another publication of importance ever since 1890, which unfortunately was now suspended.

The annual school calendar produced in these years (up to 1903) was a

more comprehensive document than the annual prospectus which replaced it and is still produced regularly. It was a miniature year book, a wonderful souvenir for Ridley's own people, and so factual it was a document of permanent historical value. It was illustrated with school photographs, listed the boards of directors and academic staffs of each year, and also carried lists of both the students currently at school and of the Old Boys to date. A full explanation of the academic and sports programmes, fees and bursaries was included. In addition, there was a complete list of the awards on Prize Day, the year's record in cricket, football, hockey and tennis, and detailed results of the annual games. The prospectus which replaced the calendar in 1903 was perhaps more effective as a promotional document, but an invaluable running record of Ridley's activities was abandoned when the change was decreed.

The early calendars also listed the donors of prizes. Before it is too late, the names of some of those who contributed academic and other awards should be recorded. The following were such donors in 1903:

W. M. Alexander; Rev. A. H. Baldwin, M.A.; Mrs. Robert Baldwin; His Honour Judge Benson; A. C. Black; A. H. Campbell; S. Caldecott; John Curry.

B. Homer Dixon, K.N.L.; Sir Casimir Gzowski, K.C.M.G., A.D.C.; Hon. R. Harcourt, M.P.P.; E. Hooper; John Hoskin, Q.C.; N. W. Hoyles, Q.C.

David Maclaren; J. H. Mason; W. D. Matthews; R. W. Millichamp; Chas. Moss, Q.C.; F. Nicholls; Rev. N. I. Perry, B.A.; Chas. Riordon; T. S. Stayner; His Honour Judge Senkler and V. B. Wadsworth.

The Bishop of Huron and the Rev. Rural Dean Armitage generally gave awards in divinity, and in President T. R. Merritt's tenure he invariably gave a prize for dormitory neatness.

PRIZE DAY IN NICHOLLS' HALL

FRIDAY, September 26, 1902, was characterized confidently as "by far the most successful Prize Day ever held at Ridley". It was, if the criterion is extensive preparations and a great crowd of spectators. A record number of visitors was on hand for the combination Prize Day and official opening of Nicholls' Hall. Orange and black ribands everywhere were colourful decoration for both the interior and exterior of the Hall, and a new touch was added when the imposing assembly of dignitaries was marched in single file to the front door through a double line of boys, every boy dressed in his best, and so ramrod straight that even that stickler for parade-square smartness, Colonel Thairs, was satisfied.

His Lordship, the Bishop of Niagara, presided at the opening ceremonies, assisted by Dean Plumptre of Wycliffe College and the Rev. Arthur Baldwin. President J. Herbert Mason told of Ridley's great appreciation to the principal donor, Mr. Frederick Nicholls, who was unfortunately not present, and so did Dr. Miller as he reported on Ridley's progress. The College was in the strongest position it had yet attained.

That we make so much of the new Lower School and the new Nicholls' Hall – a rink – is simply explained. To the Ridley of this day such physical additions represented a momentous advance. Each one was far more important than a new Ridley structure costing two hundred thousand inflated 1959 dollars. The College was still struggling for firm and lasting establishment, and for a proud place in the realm of education in Ontario, so each physical addition was viewed with a gratitude and satisfaction which were not unjustified and are not unduly magnified.

Following were the winners of the School's awards for the years 1899 to 1902 inclusive, and also the track-and-field champions of the annual games in these years:

	<i>FOR TRUE MANLINESS</i>		<i>HEAD OF THE SCHOOL</i>
	<i>Blake Gold Medal</i>	<i>Mason Silver Medal</i>	<i>Governor-General's Gold Medal</i>
1899	M. H. Gander	H. L. Hoyles	H. L. Hoyles
1900	F. W. Baldwin	A. C. Snively	A. C. Snively
1901	D. H. C. Mason	H. H. Wilkinson	H. H. Wilkinson
1902	H. D. Gooderham	S. C. Snively	W. L. Archer

ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS – ANNUAL GAMES

	<i>Senior Champion</i>	<i>Junior Champion</i>
1899	F. W. Baldwin	V. Nelson
1900	E. N. Fitzhugh	P. D. Mitchell
1901	V. Nelson	L. M. Kean
1902	J. P. Austin	B. G. Bryan

Some great athletes had competed in these four annual games. They left the following records on the books, which were still challenging Ridley athletes in 1907, and after:

1899	High Jump – 5'2" – J. H. Wade
1900	Running Broad Jump – 20'3" – F. M. Stark
1901	Standing Broad Jump – 8'10½" – H. D. Gooderham
1902	220-yard-dash – 24.2 – H. G. Greenhill

Nicholls' Hall was proving its worth long before the hockey season, at least for the players of games if not for spectators, unless they were well bundled up. The Hall was unheated. Its first use was for basketball, the game which



NICHOLLS' HALL
Ridley's First Covered Rink (1902)



THE SCHOOL HOCKEY TEAM, WINTER OF 1902-3

The first team to play in the new outdoor rink (*rear, standing, l. to r.*): J. L. Dewey; P. D. Mitchell; Mr. E. G. Powell; D. S. Stayner; Mr. H. C. Griffith (coach); C. S. Dalton; N. C. Nicholls. *Front row*: R. D. Hague; A. G. Newman (captain); P. Richardson and H. R. Rosehill.

Bishop Ridley College

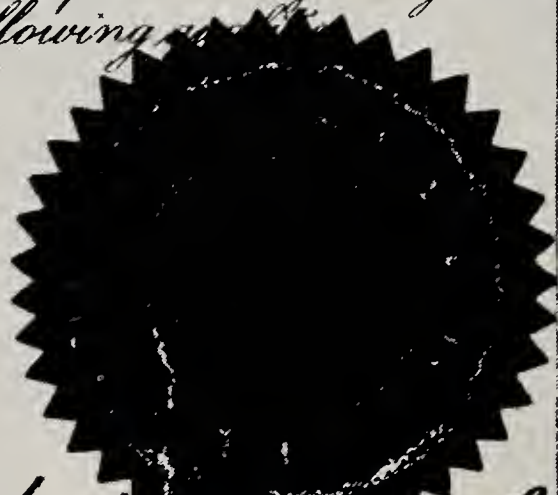
This Certifies that
D. H. C. Mason
is the winner of the Blake Gold Medal
Presented by the Hon. J. H. Blake
for True Manliness
in the year 1901

These medals are presented on the following conditions
The winners are to be elected by the vote of the College boys
as specially distinguished by the following conditions:

- 1 Straightforwardness.
- 2 Attention to duty.
- 3 Unselfishness.
- 4 Moral Courage.

Michael Mason
President

H. G. Williams
Principal



CERTIFICATE OF THE GOLD MEDAL FOR MANLINESS

The Blake Medal for Manliness became the Mason Medal in 1903, which it still is. In 1901, when won by the son of J. Herbert Mason, this honour, bestowed by the vote of the boys on the basis of personal character, was already the symbol of Ridley's philosophy. The terminology of the conditions may have since changed, but the meaning, intent of the award, and the integrity of the boys in casting their vote, remain unaltered.

the Y.M.C.A. was popularizing in all Canadian cities as fast as that organization grew; there would soon be a "Y" in all Canadian cities and larger towns. The Sixth Form played the School in the initial basketball game; score: 2 all. They obviously had a lot to learn about scoring, but next year there would be a school league. A form of indoor baseball was tried; so was bowling; ping pong tables were soon in operation in both the Hall and in the Lower School. But even on mild winter days the rink was chilly – too cold for spectators.

When it was time for hockey, the let-down was terrible; the weather was so mild that winter they could not get ice – either inside or outside their new rink – until February. It was the mildest winter for years, not excluding the last one, when the Ridley team had played Buffalo Tennis Club on ice so heavy with slush all passes and shots on goal had to see the puck lifted into the air or it went nowhere. The only consolation this year was that if they had not possessed a covered rink there would have been no ice at all.

Despite this situation they had a School team and also a junior team in action in February, both with fair schedules of games largely played away from home in late February and March.

This was the School hockey team of 1903, with spares: J. L. Dewey and A. T. Galt (alternate point and goal-keepers); D. S. Stayner (cover-point); Mike (Harry) Kennedy, forward and hockey captain; A. G. Newman (forward and centre); P. D. Mitchell and R. D. Hague (defence); P. Richardson and H. R. Rosehill (spares). Mr. Griffith played point in the game against Hamilton *Bankers*. Their season's record:

The Victories

Defeated St. Catharines Collegiate	17-5
Defeated <i>Victors</i> of St. Kitts	6-3
Defeated Buffalo Tennis Club	3-1

The Defeats

Lost to St. Catharines (Niagara League)	8-11
Lost to <i>Bankers</i> (Hamilton)	8-12
Lost to Old Boys	9-12
Lost to <i>Maple Leafs</i> (Pt. Dalhousie)	5-10

The entire year of 1903 caught the dull hockey pattern; it continued as a flat, frustrating year in sports. Ridley's cricket season was generally disastrous. Only two colours of last year's team remained, with all other places on the team filled by young and inexperienced boys. The team so seriously lacked cricket experience and strength that masters returned to the school team to help for the first time in several years. Dr. Miller, Mr. Kirkwood, Mr. Powell and Mr. Griffith all played in some games. Despite this aid, the XI won only three matches out of the eleven played. ("We fared no worse than expected.")

Ridley's track-and-field sports were then run off on June 16-17 with nothing

spectacular or memorable to mark them. Hague defeated Nicholls for the Senior Championship and the Gooderham cup by dominating the jumping events. Glen narrowly defeated Lee mi and Maxwell ma for the Junior Championship. No records were broken. No outstanding athlete emerged.

But the 1903 football season was inspiring – even historic for Ridley – if the great football debate was on again, more heatedly than ever: What rules – the old, or the Burnside? What game – Canadian rugby football or English rugger?

To Ridley's disgust, Upper Canada was so strongly in favour of English rugger they were circularizing the other schools urging their support. Fortunately, St. Andrews and Trinity College School were neutral, which left the issue a deadlock, U.C.C. against Ridley. That meant the *status quo* would prevail.

Ridley's old coach, now the Reverend A. F. Barr, submitted an article to *Acta Ridleiana* which blandly ignored the rugger vs. rugby controversy, and instead was a strong sermon in favour of the adoption of the Burnside football rules and the new open game. So far as his Ridley readers were concerned he was only preaching to converts; Ridley was strongly in favour of the Varsity proposal. Nothing happened; the controversial bickering about football rules just continued.

Trinity College, with four ex-Ridley players on their team (F. Hobbs, W. S. Greening, W. L. Archer and P. D. Mitchell), crossed the lake for Ridley's first football game of the season. Trinity suffered a severe drubbing, 30-0. Then, the Ridley team and at least two-score supporters, also crossed the lake in good, if cold weather to play St. Andrew's at Rosedale on Saturday, October 24. The officials were Rev. A. F. Barr (referee) and Mr. Harold Beatty of Varsity (umpire). It was a tough, hard game, with Ridley lucky to eke out a 6-1 win to take them home to St. Catharines by train very late, but happy with the victory. They still had two inter-school games to play.

Old Springbank Sanatorium looked exactly what it was in that October of 1903 – a somewhat battered and student-worn but comfortable school, with a touch of the boys of all the terms since 1889 pervading its atmosphere. There were Ridleians who said later it somehow seemed wonderfully mellow and lovable, as something old and comfortable is loved, as they bedded down that Saturday night. They were all asleep by midnight.

Plaster had fallen from ceilings here and there. Initials had been carved into many a desk and odd corner, and if the beautiful oak and maple panels of the Prayer Hall had been spared young sculptors' pocket-knives (except in secret crevices), its parquet floor was worn down only a little less than the gullied staircases from fourteen years of schoolboy boots. But they had real affection for the old building, with all its faults and inconveniences, and even if it was a bit ramshackle. They knew every creak and groan in its joists, every sigh it

gave in the dead of night. But something tragic was now to happen to Springbank, to make the following *Ode to Ridley* from the latest issue of *Acta* into a lament of pure nostalgia, by coincidence:

*Ye walls of brick so massive and so true,
Ye towering chimneys filled with murky smoke,
Reminds me of something I owe you –
Ten cents it is, a looking glass I broke.*

*Ye looking-glass so lustrous and so cool,
With carved frame, and cracked at every inch,
Reminds me of five cents I owe the School –
For cutting names upon the study bench.*

*Ye study bench which knife does carve and fret,
My eye upon your rugged surface falls;
I think of many a pressing little debt,
For knocking plaster off the College walls.*

– P.R.

The Historic Ridley Fire: Springbank

“As the Headmaster stood under the street gaslight in front of his boys, the glare of the flames reflecting redly on their young faces, he knew this was the most anxious and important roll call Ridley would ever know.”

IN THE black early dawn of a cold, blowing October Sunday morning, the chill cry – “*Fire!*” – ran with a heart-stopping shock through the dark corridors and sleeping dormitories of the Wing and Main. No sound is more dreaded in a school, especially at night. No cry of warning is more feared or demoralizing for it can spell uncontrolled panic, ugly and frightful, and the awful horror of many young people caught in a burning death-trap.

It was two-thirty a.m. or a little later when the first cry of “*Fire*” startled the few who heard. It was the shout of a new boy, James M. McKinnon of Buffalo, awakened by the glare of flames reddening his window – high up in the Wing, looking into the Upper Main. It appeared to him that the top-floor dormitory was already in flames.

His first cry of “*Fire*” went chilling through a silent, sleeping school without an answer. He screamed, “*Fire! Fire! Fire!*” again and again, his voice shrill with desperation and, at last, with awful slowness, “*Fire*” was echoing “*Fire*” all through the frightened dormitories and corridors, now astir with convulsive movement.

Then other sounds rose – shouts, warnings, sharp questioning cries – and flooded through the School.

It took them according to their natures; to some, it was a challenge to their courage, their control, the ability to lead and set an example; to some it was such a confused, numbing shock they could not seem to function. Miss Cleg-horn came awake, with her first thought one of thankfulness that the younger boys were safe in the Lower School far across the canal. Masters awoke, hurrying, fighting for control, with an awful clutch of dread about the dozens of boys in those upper dormitories, visualizing terrible tragedy.

Up there, in the Main, where the danger was very real, there were a score of little dramas in the suddenly dread-filled dark to reveal boys to boys and to themselves. It could so easily have turned to uncontrolled panic and disaster. Boys, scrambling from their beds, dazed, bewildered, fighting back the first leap of panic within them. Boys, clutching wildly for their clothes – for anything – half awake, unbelieving, but fiercely choking back an unmanly shriek of pure terror. Here, a boy, babbling and helpless from fear, unable to move, is snapped back to sanity by a brave jeer and a rough hand. There, a high-pitched laugh, shrill from nerves, but meant to encourage defiance of fear. A cheery, quick-witted shout: “All out for fire-drill Ridley . . . steady, hurry, steady.”

That was one dormitory. In another there was no jam at the door, even when a rush of air swept the acrid stench of their burning building over them. A boy near the door had eased the first rush by making a cavalier bow and giggling: “After you, Alphonse.” It worked; they all giggled, took it easy.

There was a reddish glare on the windows now, ominous and fearful. As it flared suddenly high, a boy leaped frantically for a hall window; he was knocked to the floor, then picked up and shoved to the head of the stairs.

“Steady, Ridley!”

Behind him, another boy’s fingers froze to the door until he was torn away by a grinning senior – a footballer – and also hustled to the stairs, where he was suddenly, miraculously, himself again. The senior – Murray Kennedy – stayed there to act as traffic officer, thinning the boys out as they started down. He had help from steady Katie Nicholls, who was calmly telling boys to throw their most precious possessions out a window.

There was a master below – two masters – fighting to look cool. The boys were going down in a jostling stream, several of them still giggling, but only from excitement and fear, not hysterically. The presence of Kennedy, Nicholls and the masters helped, but the boys were playing the man. They stopped fighting each other for room, even when the fire-bell crashed out, being wrung furiously by Dick (R. M.) Harcourt who had raced to ring its alarm as his first thought. He had it ringing in a sharp staccato clanging in less than two minutes of McKinnon’s first warning shout.

“That fire-bell was the most frightening thing of the fire,” a boy wrote home. “I wasn’t scared until Dick started ringing it.”

There was remarkably good order, and little milling as they poured outside, and a moment later there was shrill laughter; as they clutched their trousers with one hand, some of them suddenly saw in their other hand the foolish things they had snatched up in that first haste of terror – a broken comb, a cup, a book, a mouth-organ, a sponge, one shoe, not two.

There was a pet white rat under the night-shirt of a boy who couldn’t stop hiccupping; Mr. Powell whacked his back, as a cure, and the rat popped out.

"The oddest thing was the incessant nervous giggling; nerves of course; it was a general infection. That giggling was the thing I remember most of all," recalled an Old Boy fifty-five years later.

In a few moments they were all safe in the raw night air, with the scrambling rush over, the fear behind them, but with Harcourt's fire-bell still clanging.

It was cold and black outside, with a high wind blowing. The gaslight on the post on the road was suddenly engulfed in a cloud of spark-filled smoke as the wind veered sharply. It swept over the boys, as if in thwarted anger. They shivered, and not from the cold.

They did not yet realize how close this had been to a terrible human tragedy, with themselves the victims. They were beginning to chatter nervously, getting ready to start enjoying the excitement of it all. The masters were realizing the narrowness of the escape, of course; it was on the Headmaster's face as he had raced from his house, awakened by the fire-bell to see that ominous glare. It had lit up his entire room. His relief was so great as he saw the boys beginning to tumble out that he forgot the threat to his beloved school.

"Have you the roll?" he demanded of two masters. "Check the boys."

Mr. Powell had telephoned the fire department on the first warning. Mr. Griffith and he were now getting the shivering boys assembled for the roll call. (Mr. Griffith had his peaked cap, always worn while coaching rugby, in his hand – he was saving that!) No one had the roll, so Dr. Miller rushed inside to his office. There was no danger. Some masters and the Matron were searching the Wing and into the Main as far as they dared. They came back loaded with Ridley photographs from the walls, papers and documents, as Dr. Miller returned, the precious list of the boys in his hand.

For long minutes, only the upper part of the Main had been burning, so small groups of seniors had rescued some things from the ground floor – a clock, a few books from the library, two good oak tables. Anything saved was stacked in the Headmaster's backyard. The boys in the Wing were lucky; before it, too, was blazing, they were even able to go back and retrieve some of their personal belongings. There was time for that, but no more.

The boys of Ridley were standing ready for the roll call in a sudden, crackling stillness, for Katie Nicholls had been sent to tell Dick Harcourt to stop the useless din of the clanging fire-bell, and to get outside while he still could. Dick's face looked as if he had been sunburned.

That sudden silence was awesome; the crackling was old Springbank wood, newly caught by fire. The roar of the flames in the high wind was suddenly loud as they waited and watched helplessly.

If credit was given by the newspapers to the leadership and control of the masters, it should have gone to the boys, or to Ridley for the manly character she was fostering. It showed up everywhere; their steadiness after recovering

from the first chill warning came from training that was worth a thousand fire-drills.

As the Headmaster stood under the street gaslight in front of his boys, the glare of the flames reflecting redly on their young faces, he knew this would be the most anxious and important roll call Ridley College would ever know. They answered as they had answered a hundred times:

“Austin?”
 “Adsum”
 “Barber?”
 “Adsum”
 “Beasley?”
 “Adsum”

and on and on down to

“Wilde?”
 “Adsum”

There was a brief moment of terrible consternation. One boy had not answered. Then, it was recalled that he was the one footballer who had been given permission to stay in Toronto overnight. That football game! It seemed long, long ago. It was only yesterday afternoon.

The fire department was coming now, but would be helpless to save the School.

The fire, starting in a trunk room, usually locked, had perhaps been ignited by a match dropped into rubbish by the workmen who had been doing some repairs. It may have smouldered for some hours. This was a theory, never confirmed, but the one generally accepted; the origin of the fire actually remained a mystery. There was soon no doubt about the completeness of its destruction; all of Springbank was doomed. The firemen discovered the water pressure was so low that the hundreds of people who were now arriving would be in ample time to watch with the boys while their school was consumed. The streams of water were so puny they turned into steam in the heat, quenching nothing.

The fire had soon rapidly eaten along the attic under the roof, because the space between the roof and the ceiling of the top floor was like a funnel; the fire raced through it, consuming the Main, and soon the Wing was also a mass of flames. The whole School then became a sea of fire with the wind fanning it like a mighty bellows. When it changed direction, the firemen had more chance but, as the newspapers reported, the college buildings were probably doomed from the start.

The flames made such headway in the high wind that St. Catharines was endangered; the *Standard's* reporter said that live red sparks were flying as far as St. Paul and James Street. With hope abandoned to save the main college

building, the firemen concentrated their efforts on wetting the roofs of adjacent houses, including the Headmaster's. Many of the residents were carrying out personal property and piling it in the street.

The roof of the Main was the first to collapse and fall into the raging furnace inside the walls, as the whole school watched in painful silence. Then the roof of the Wing went, with a sudden vomit of flame and smoke to mark it. Next, the walls of the Wing began bulging from the heat, and they too gave way in a fiery crash. Somehow, the skeleton walls of the Main remained standing but, as the cold October daylight crept over the desolate scene, only a pitiful shell remained of Springbank Sanatorium, built by Dr. Theophilus Mack in 1864, and destroyed by fire as Ridley College on Sunday morning, October 25, 1903.

By some quirk of the vagaries of a fire, the gym which had been the spa's laundry, still stood, almost undamaged. It still stands, converted into a terrace of three houses, beside the home of "Ab" Taylor, original Ridleian, which is built on the original site of Springbank. Nothing else remains of the solid old building which, with all its imperfections, had been sincerely loved by every Ridleian.

The nervous chattering of the crowd had quieted long ago, and the school staff was also watching the end of it in impotent silence, shivering like the boys in the cold morning wind. There was nothing to say; what they felt was on their strained faces.

"Terrible, it's terrible," Mr. Powell kept muttering, helplessly.

"I'm sorriest of all for Jo Miller," said Rep Williams, who had arrived from across the canal. His kind face was warm with sympathy, as he looked at the Headmaster, his head back, his beard seeming to jut in defiance toward the smouldering wreckage of his school. The shock for the Headmaster must have been indescribable, even by him. Others could only guess his feelings. As he watched while the School he had created and had then fostered and shaped with care and pride for fourteen years was reduced to burning embers and a smoking ruin, he must have known deep bitterness, though he gave no sign. But his eyes were bleak as the thinning smoke swirled suddenly over the silent crowd, leaving the standing chimneys suddenly gaunt and clear; they seemed to reach to the grey sky in despairing, unheeded supplication.

It was fortunate there was so much to be done, and that he could partially obliterate the tragic end of Ridley's home in furious effort to overcome the blow. It was not going to be a knock-out. He must house the boys; he must find new space somewhere – anywhere – for classrooms. Ridley was going on. He must inspire the members of the Board over in Toronto with his own fierce insistence that Ridley must be restored at once as a living thing.

Most people were kind; everyone tried to help as they could. Temporary quarters were found in the Lower School, soon jam-packed, in the homes of residents, in the old Welland House, where the Headmaster obtained an entire floor.

Early in the day he knew he could have the Sunday School of St. Thomas' Church for classrooms, but he soon realized he would have to send most of the senior boys to their homes for a short time. That decision taken, he caught the evening train to Toronto to see the Board of Directors. They seemed to be in a state of half-hope, half-despair and, to him, seemed slow to respond to his sense of combined confidence and urgency.

At the morning service in St. Paul's Church in Toronto that day, the Reverend H. J. Cody had announced the disturbing news of the fire and the destruction of Ridley to the congregation. He had been on the telephone to St. Catharines and could give assurances that all inmates had escaped safely. He later saw strange significance in the hymn listed to be immediately sung: It was "*God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform.*" It was certainly not yet visualized, but it later proved that the fire had marked the beginning of a wonderful new era for Ridley.

On October 26 Dr. Miller wrote a letter (probably from Toronto) to all parents which gave no hint of his lurking worry that perhaps only the Junior School could remain in full operation. He sounded confident about temporary space being found; others were not. He wrote:

Dear Sir:

In this great calamity that has befallen the School, I ask you to join us in thanking God that there has been no injury to life or limb.

We are obliged to send many of the Upper School boys back to their homes for a time. Our intense desire is to keep the School together until a new building is erected. We are now trying to arrange for temporary quarters in which to carry on the regular school work. We hope to complete our arrangements within a few days, and to reopen the School within two weeks.

Confidently counting upon the sympathy and support of all the boys' parents, I am

Yours very faithfully,
J. O. Miller

Because everyone in St. Catharines was so sympathetic, the adamant refusal of Miss Henrietta Hainer to permit a Ridley boy to step into her house seemed astonishing. Her house on the Hill was unharmed. On Sunday morning, with the debris still smoking, Dr. Miller had asked her to accommodate a number of seniors and had been abruptly refused. Her nephew, a barrister at Cayuga, later wrote: "I have advised her (Miss Hainer) not to give up any part of her house for the temporary accommodation of your senior boys."

At the same time, he offered to sell the College her house at a premium of \$360 per year over the existing annuity arrangement. Instead of a fire sale, there was fire profiteering. Nothing resulted.

In any event, the Headmaster had heard about wonderful accommodation. He discovered that the old Stephenson House, another relic of St. Catharines'

day as a fashionable watering place, was probably available, if the right tactics were used. It was an even older sanatorium than Springbank, and had enjoyed great popularity among wealthy Southerners; entire families with servants, carriages and horses, would arrive at the Stephenson House from Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and the Carolinas. But that day was gone. It, too, was now a school, but the Headmaster discovered the non-conformist clergyman, A. B. Demill, who operated "Demill's Ladies' College", had not paid his rent to the landlord, Mr. E. R. C. Clarkson of Toronto, for many months and had very few pupils. Dr. Miller telephoned Mr. Clarkson; Mr. Demill was a tenant "on sufferance".

The Headmaster saw the tactics to use. While the Board of Directors signed an agreement with Mr. Clarkson at Toronto, Dr. Miller gave Mr. Demill \$500 in cash and saw him off happily on the train that same night. Everyone was pleased with the deal, including the two or three students in Demill's; the girls were glad to go home on the same train which Mr. Demill boarded.

Demill's Ladies' College was no more; Ridley College came back to life.

On November 2 the Headmaster was writing to the parents of senior Ridley students: "We expect to move into the new building on the 11th instant." It would have been done earlier, but everything had to be purchased from classroom texts and blackboards to kitchen soap, bed linen and cutlery.

The remarkable morale of Ridley's boys had been demonstrated from the moment of the fire's discovery. They now took the upheaval in such easy stride that the season's football schedule was played out as if Ridley had not been destroyed. On the Saturday following the fire, the team assembled at Varsity in Toronto in motley borrowed football uniforms, many coming from their homes, others arriving from St. Catharines. They probably felt the occasion called for a desperate effort, for they conquered T.C.S. by a score of 22-0. ("They seemed to be inspired, or perhaps they didn't like being called Homeless Waifs.")

The following Saturday (November 7) Upper Canada came to Ridley. This was the big game of the year; this was the one that mattered. They had defeated St. Andrew's in October before the fire, so all knew what this game meant – the championship of the Little Big Four! If Ridley could win, it would be her first championship, a tremendous spur. Besides, the big Toronto school was always tough to play, and tougher to defeat, so whenever Ridley won a victory over U.C.C. it was doubly savoured.

A huge crowd of Old Boys came over from Toronto, lending their moral support to their old school in her time of trouble. Besides, they smelled triumph in the air.

Once more Half-back Murray Kennedy, the football captain, led out a team of invincible warriors to do battle; they played great football from the moment Ridley won the toss and chose to kick with the slight wind. In the first play

Kennedy broke away on a run, passed to McNett as he was tackled for a gain of 30 yards. Minutes later Kennedy punted, and Newman brought the U.C.C. receiver down on the 4-yard line. In the following scrimmage, Ridley got the ball on a fumble and McKinnon then made a fine plunge and went over for a try: Ridley, 5; U.C.C., 0.

From then on it was a rout, with Ridley's supporters wild with excitement and elation. The team ended it with a glorious whitewash – 26-0.

So – “In the Year of the Fire” – Ridley was Football Champion of the Little Big Four for the first time.

The entire Ridley world – old and new – went wildly, happily insane. The Lower School boys had cheered themselves hoarse – steadily, minute by minute, all through that last tense half; with hopes mounting, they had chanted in ecstatic delight: “R-I-D-L-E-Y . . . R-I-D-L-E-Y”. Even conservative Colonel Thairs was seen dancing a little jig and huskily crowing, over and over, “We clobbered ’em! We clobbered ’em!” The group of Old Boys over from Varsity led a war-whooping snake dance on the field of victory. Ridley had not known such elated excitement since the clean sweep of ’99.

The team's seasonal record had been remarkable; exclusive of the Old Boys game, played three weeks after they had gone out of training, Ridley's footballers had scored 84 points in all games, with only 1 point counted against them! (The Ridley-St. Andrew's score before the fire had been 6-1.)

The Old Boys beat them 12-2 on November 28, but no one cared. They were still basking in the glory of the U.C.C. defeat. Besides, being beaten by such a team as the Old Boys fielded was no disgrace; it was a team of all-stars; no less than five former Ridley football captains were on the team, and they were all still hard and fit from football in much higher leagues – Casey Baldwin (Varsity); A. Trimmer (Argos); Courtney Kingstone (St. Kitts); F. Hobbs (London); P. Suckling (Wellesleys); H. Bourne (Galt); Wesley Lumbers (Torontos); S. C. Snively (Varsity); Pete Haverson (Argos); L. Young (Varsity); J. Dalton (Torontos); F. McGiverin (Varsity); A. C. Snively (Varsity).

It was the losers – the School – who were the toasts of the memorable dinner that night in the Stephenson House. Many of the Old Boys stayed for the week-end which meant difficulties in putting them up, though only some of the students were back from their homes, with the balance not due until Monday. Brand-new bedding was hastily unpacked from wholesalers' crates by Matron Cleghorn who as usual rose to the occasion.

This was the victorious Ridley team “in the year of the fire”:

M. D. Kennedy, captain – centre half – “Always showed a cool head and worked his plays and signals well. Made few mistakes. Had the confidence of the whole team.”

H. Rosehill, right half – third year – “One of the hardest workers on the team. A fair catch, sure tackle and wonderful runner.”

R. D. Hague, left half – second year – “A sure catch and plucky tackle. Very fast. One of the lightest, but never shirked.”

N. C. Nicholls, inside wing – second year – “On aggressive work he generally broke through, and on defence always held his man. Strong close-in.”

F. A. Lee ma, outside wing – second year – “Surest tackle on the line. Stopped every attempt at runs around his end in the U.C.C. and T.C.S. games.”

A. J. Norsworthy ma, centre scrim – second year – “Without doubt one of best centres Ridley has ever had.”

C. S. Dalton, middle-wing – first year – “Among first in following up. Splendid tackle. Worked very hard.”

J. L. Dewey, left scrim – first year – “Gave good support and strong in offence.”

J. McKinnon, quarter – first year – “A little inclined to fumble but always recovered; in bucking, he starts fast, hits low and hard.”

R. D. Brown, right scrim – first year – “With Norsworthy and Dewey formed strongest scrimmage Ridley ever had.”

L. D. Newman, inside wing – first year – “One of the fastest on the line; the hardest man on the team to stop.”

J. S. McNett, middle wing – first year – “Good tackle and enthusiastic worker.”

W. E. Doherty, outside wing – first year – “Deserves great credit for his pluck; magnificent tackle; is very light.”

R. C. Lee mi, full back – first year – “Good tackle, good catch, fair punt. Runs and dodges well.”

Substitutes: They were *A. R. Miles*, sub-quarter; *A. V. Ogden*, sub-wing; *F. A. Stanton*, sub-wing; *R. E. Maxwell*, sub-half; *R. M. Harcourt*, sub-half.

The remarkable character of this 1903 championship team was its large number of first-year men. All proved themselves, which was the key to the team's success.

Justified credit was given to Coach Griffith. He was already displaying the football knowledge which would make him one of the greatest coaches in Varsity's history a few years later. The school journal paid this tribute to the players who had gone before: “The team this year owes an infinite debt to those who struggled and fought hard in the years of leanness since 1899, and it is safe to say that if there had been no team in 1900 there would have been no championship in 1903.”

But *Acta* also said of the U.C.C. game: “By long odds the greatest school match victory in the history of Ridley.”

The Monday following the inspiring victory over U.C.C. found all the seniors back but three, and installing themselves in their new college home. They liked their new scene; for emergency quarters, the Stephenson House was so much better than expected that they were pleasantly astonished. By night,

all classes had been re-established, and Ridley was ready to carry on as if a disastrous fire had not wiped out their home.

Their new spa was more commodious than Springbank in the dining room and students' reading room, and there was also a larger prayer hall, if it lacked the beauty of the panelled room they had loved. The building proved warm and well heated that winter, but until the new washroom facilities were completed the morning battles for position in the line-up were heroic. The first few mornings saw corridors choked with a mass of wildly struggling, half-dressed, half-awake and sometimes naked boys. Then the prefects took hold by getting up very early. Each morning then saw a wild race from bed to washroom door, with cleansing time limited to 120 seconds per boy by a prefect's watch. If a senior shaved, he did it at noon. A bath was strictly by catch-as-catch-can rules.

But, within a month of the fire, everything was normal in the academic programme and general activities, and they even had a gym of sorts.

Although the boys were happy and comfortable in the dormitories of Stephenson House (despite jeers from the collegiate boys about sissy Ridley kids in Demill's Ladies' College), there would be a vast sigh of relief from the proprietor and his guests of the Welland House, when the Ridley boys billeted there moved out.

"They were the longest weeks I ever lived," recalled the landlord feelingly long afterwards, "and they nearly drove my night clerk crazy."

The boys had an entire floor of this dignified hotel blocked off for themselves, and their combined high jinks and high spirits no doubt became a bit trying. They discovered the night clerk was afraid of ghosts and also addicted to nips from a bottle to keep his courage up. Quite naturally, they would find and hide his bottle or dilute it with kerosene or soap-suds. If he dozed off, a toy rat would race across the rotunda floor; the lights were always being turned off, weird squeaks and rattles were heard, and so many groaning, moaning "ghosts" in bed sheets were always flitting about that the eeriness of some nights often had him, as he said himself, half loony.

The boys were thoroughly enjoying the Welland House. They were remote enough from Authority that they had only one master, a heavy sleeper, and two long-suffering prefects to watch, outwit or appease. The harried prefects were Stunt Stayner (temporary appointment) and reliable Katie Nicholls. But they did not love the Welland House; they would stare at the chimney stacks over the burned-out shell of their old school with a peculiarly deep regret, and something of the haunted look of the nerve-shaken night-clerk. Perhaps Stayner could not stand the strain; he invented some ingenious pranks himself and lost his prefectship. But the proprietor and night clerk were much more pleased than the boys when room was shortly found for them in the Stephenson House.

So easily do students of good morale accept a major upheaval that the repartee, little squabbles and general happy air of the new dormitories in the Stephenson House were exactly the same as in Springbank. (*Echoes from the (New) Flat*: "What the dickens are you trying to do, anyway?" . . . "Let me take your shoe polish, will you?" . . . "Liz! buzzled already." . . . "Hic domus! Who swiped the laces from my boots?" . . . "Jinks, lend me a collar-button?" . . . "Aw, quit throwing that football." . . . "Oh! Shut up Caruso." . . . "I cawn't help it." . . . "What French prose is it tomorrow?")

The truth was, the emergency arrangements after the fire had been so well handled that the interruption had been effectively minimized. The parents of only three boys who had been sent home had lost faith in Ridley to keep operating successfully and had entered their sons in other schools. Those three were the net student loss.

In the Stephenson House there was a bowling alley, a long polished bar (unstocked) and a basement heavily populated that winter by the same breed of fat, bold rats they had finally ousted at Springbank. These were probably brewery rats. The boys held rat hunts, with rodent tails a new trophy, and when the rats proved too tough for the cats they coaxed into the basement, the Ridley boys dared the town boys to put their dogs downstairs. The dogs also quickly lost enthusiasm for rat-hunting in the dark cellar. On one occasion three fox terriers found themselves enticed into the dark basement and locked in. The watchman, who heard a lot of frantic yelping that night, released the dogs and solemnly related: "They streaked off into the night as if the De'il himself was chasin' 'em." Before long all the dogs in St. Catharines went warily wide of the dog-catchers of Stephenson House.

The former Spa was an integral part of Ridley for fourteen months, and neither academic nor behaviour standards suffered. They knew it would be a proud and exciting day, however, when the great invasion took place of a brand-new Upper School by more than a hundred boys (their first enrolment). The Board and the Headmaster were hurrying . . .

Their precious rink, safely across the canal, had not even been scorched by flying sparks as the wind had been right, and the ice was in great shape for hockey when they came back after their Christmas holidays. They had quite a hike for practice for the canal did not freeze. They often bribed or cajoled lifts for themselves from the driver of McLaren & Company's department store, and sometimes even on the coffin wagon of Grobbe Brothers, Undertakers.

There was no game as expected with a team of the other schools of the Little Big Four in 1904; Ridley taunted them with having cold feet – "and not from frost" – but before long they ceased even to send a challenge.

The school hockey team that year was never farther afield than Buffalo, but they had ice from the first day of school in January until late in the spring, and won eight and tied one of the eleven games played. Murray Kennedy,

football captain, was also hockey captain in successful 1904; he played right-wing.

The hockey players of the Lower School also had a great season, winning three of their four matches and scoring twenty-two goals with only seven against them. Either Mr. Williams or Mr. Millman, a new junior master, always accompanied the team on their winter trips to other schools.

THE NEW RIDLEY

LONG before this, the Board of Directors were planning to house the staff and senior students under one roof with all the speed possible. With insurance of only \$23,000, the net fire loss was estimated at \$16,660.88, though this did not include the boys' personal belongings. (Their families had also found it necessary to start from scratch with new school outfits.) But a new school built largely to the Headmaster's general design was the single-minded purpose the moment the Stephenson House had been found for a temporary school; that had put tremendous heart into the Board. President Mason, the Headmaster, Directors Nicholls and Millichamp, plus the St. Catharines group, were delegated as a Building Committee. They moved quickly. Early in November salvage bids were asked; the Springbank property was listed in Toronto for sale; and the drive for funds launched.

To Dr. Miller, it must have seemed like 1888 repeating itself, except that this time there was little land to be bought. They had ample room for a new school on Western Hill, which Dr. Miller had envisioned as a future site as early as 1889. But the Headmaster returned to his old role of fund-raiser, being released from as much academic duty as possible. Once again he gathered lists of prospects. Once again he was drafting appeals for financial help, one letter to Ridley parents and another to all prospective subscribers. The latter expressed Ridley's situation and need with complete frankness. (Please see Appendix A-a.)

At the beginning of December, the Board decided to borrow \$47,000, offering property and stock pledges as security. Two months later they saw they must borrow another \$30,000 from the Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation. Still wasting no time, on the same day they closed a building contract with Newman Brothers of St. Catharines for \$63,000; the new Upper School would be built to plans by G. M. Miller & Co., the Toronto architects of the Lower School.

Minor details were the sale of the Springbank land to Newman Brothers; purchase of six acres from J. A. Dyer whose farm has long since become a residential subdivision; permission to use a small section of Ridley land on

lease to the golf club; and a deal with the city which gave Ridley water mains in return for land to be utilized as a street or road.

Early in 1904, President Mason could forecast that the New Upper School would be ready for operations by January, 1905. Tentative plans were already afoot to hold a cornerstone-laying ceremony in conjunction with the annual games in June or on Prize Day around July 1. The contractors were adjured to have the foundation finished and everything ready by this latter date, at the very latest.

The Bishop of Niagara was lustily cheered when he visited Stephenson House on March 20, 1904, but it is suspected that the boys were particularly vociferous because he requested a half-holiday for them next day, a Monday, which was, of course, granted. Dr. Miller was pleased so many boys were confirmed by the Bishop in the annual confirmation service in St. Thomas' Church; it seemed to reflect the gratitude of Ridley that there had been no loss of life in the fire. As time passed, the narrowness by which a terrible tragedy had been escaped seemed to grow sharper. Those confirmed were: Bricker, Cutter, Fowler, Glen, Hawke, James, Merrill, Murphy mi, Norsworthy mi, Score, Stewart and Stone.

No one seemed to care that two of the boys had black eyes, suffered in a glorious fight between the wearers of orange and green ties on St. Patrick's Day, with neither religion nor race having anything to do with the rough-and-tumble struggle. For no reason, they had just decided to stage a Battle of the Boyne on the tow path of the Welland Canal.

ORANGE vs. GREEN

*They wait! Each orange tie is cut behind;
Each shirt and collar old as Smitty's jokes;
Shoulder to shoulder they stand lined
And wait with quaking knees the green-tied folks.*

*"Ties!" cry the fighting crowd that fiercely sweat,
Tugging and tearing every tie in sight;
Each man an armful tries to get,
Yelling triumphant after every fight.*

*"Shirts!" soon is heard above the fierce onslaught
And gallant orange makes one more desperate stand;
But wearers of the green, as well they ought
Soon leave the orange shirtless. Luckless band.*

— Acta



The ruins of Springbank—destroyed by fire, 1903



The entire School, less the Headmaster — 1905



1905: The New Upper School (Now School House)

In the
Year
of the
Fire



LITTLE BIG FOUR CHAMPIONS—1903

U.C.C. 0; Ridley 26 T.C.S. 0; Ridley 22 St. Andrew's 1; Ridley 6

This 1903 Football Team won Ridley's first L.B.F. championship: *in front (l. to r.):* R. M. Harcourt and A. R. Myles (subs); W. E. Doherty (o. wing); J. M. McKinnon (quarter); R. E. Maxwell (sub); R. C. Lee (f. back). *Centre (seated):* Mr. E. G. Powell; Murray Kennedy; (captain and centre half); Mr. H. C. Griffith (coach). *Back row:* H. R. Roschill (R. half); J. S. McNett (m. wing); N. C. Nicholls (i. wing); C. S. Dalton (m. wing); R. D. Brown (r. scrim.); A. J. Norsworthy (c. scrim.); J. L. Dewey (l. scrim.); F. A. Lee (o. wing); A. U. Ogden (sub); F. A. Stanton (sub.); L. D. Newman (i. wing) and R. D. Hague (l. half).

Bad weather prevented the cricket team from matching the excellent record of Ridley's football and hockey players, but this was the only adverse element. They had expected to do well because they had ten old colours for the 1904 team, but their four preliminary matches had to be cancelled because of rain. They went into their school games with little practice as a team and were beaten by both St. Andrew's and T.C.S. and extremely lucky to come out with a draw against U.C.C. There were good excuses, but they were scorned. ("We have no excuses to offer, we simply state that the other schools were stronger.") The second eleven made up for it; they won all their matches, generally by an innings.

The track-and-field events were run-off on June 3 over heavy ground due to several days of rain, but the sun came out and the largest crowd to date witnessed Ridley's annual games. N. C. Nicholls was Senior Champion, winning the handsome W. G. Gooderham Challenge Cup, and a new award, the E. D. Gooderham gold medal. He did so well in the sprints and longer runs that he had thirty-seven points to fourteen by the runner-up, R. D. Hague. A. N. Sclater won the Junior Championship and the annual cup, traditionally presented by Mr. George Gooderham.

Despite much rain early in 1904, Ridley's public events were blessed by bright suns and clear skies. Another great crowd of visitors and parents were on hand for Prize Day and the cornerstone ceremony, held in beautiful weather. A luncheon was served in the Lower School, and the assembled personages, parents and other visitors then adjourned to the rink, where the boys were waiting. After President Mason's opening address, Dr. Miller was eloquent in a tribute to the Board, especially President Mason, Mr. T. R. Merritt and Mr. W. G. Gooderham, for making a new Ridley College available so soon. He, too, predicted opening day would be early in January.

At the ceremony at the site of the new building, the Reverend Dr. Miller acted on behalf of the Bishop of Niagara for the dedication service, and President Mason was then handed a silver trowel by Miss Nannette Miller, to "well and truly lay the cornerstone".

Unhappily, it was not well laid; there was another heavy rain storm that night, and under its cover a thief abstracted and broke open the copper box, which is the core of a cornerstone and which always holds historical items as artifacts for posterity. It was sheer vandalism rather than theft for the contents of the box were largely worthless to him – a copy of the College charter; cancelled Imperial Bank bills from \$1 to \$20; a set of Canadian coins and another of postage stamps; a copy of the St. Catharines *Standard* with a story on the College; a Ridley annual calendar for 1902-3, and a short history of the College. (*Footnote to history*: In 1949, there was an echo of the 1904 vandalism; the buttress in which the cornerstone was set had to come down when the Great Hall was built, and after examining the sealed copper box of

1904, some Ridley people of 1949 felt those of 1904 had a poor historical sense, or at least gave little thought to posterity. The box was empty except for one or two documents. But this was not carelessness about posterity; the construction men had built the cornerstone with its rifled copper box so solidly into the new school before Dr. Miller learned of the vandalism that new artifacts could only be inserted at a forbidding cost.)

The scholastic prize list for 1904 was notable for its many new awards, and still further evidence of the way Ridley’s supporters were rallying to help the College “in the year of the fire”. R. D. Hague won the vote of the boys for the most coveted of all awards, the Mason Gold Medal, and when the matriculation results were known, D. S. Robinson was declared Head Boy of the School and winner of the Governor-General’s Gold Medal for Scholastic Proficiency. (*Gems extracted from Form IIIB examinations of 1904*: “The camel is a huge animal which comes from Africa; there are two kinds, the one *humpt* and the two *humpt*. . . . Sierra Leone is said to be the death-bed of the white men. . . . Crocodiles live on people if they can get them. . . . The character of Henry is tall and has gray eyes, and was a good ruler.”)

It was in 1903 that the Mason Silver Medal for second place in the vote for the boy they judged most worthy to be awarded the manliness medal had been discontinued, and the President donated the Gold Medal from the same year. Perhaps the purpose was to ensure that the prestige of the award was maintained by stressing its rarity through presenting only one medal annually, but this caution was not really necessary. The influence of the manliness medal, and the respect with which it was held by the boys, had grown with each passing year. They may not have been conscious that it was the symbol of Ridley’s philosophy, but the serious integrity they still applied to their vote testified to the way they honoured the award.

It was fitting that President Mason should now provide the medal for the Head Boy of the new Lower School who stood out in the academic subjects. It also dated from 1903.

CHAMPIONS IN TRACK-AND-FIELD, 1903-4

	Senior	Junior
1903	R. D. Hague	J. M. Glen
1904	N. C. Nicholls	A. N. Sclater mi

RIDLEY’S HIGHEST HONOURS, 1903-4

	MASON GOLD MEDAL FOR TRUE MANLINESS (on the vote of the boys)	HEAD BOY (Governor-General’s Gold Medal)	HEAD BOY of the Lower School (Mason Gold Medal)
1903	P. D. Mitchell	P. D. Mitchell	E. A. Murphy
1904	R.D. Hague	D. S. Robinson	A. R. Lee

Soon after Prize Day of 1904 the Board of Governors considered (with premature pessimism) that money for the building fund was coming in too slowly. Despite this feeling, the Headmaster, always confident and optimistic about peoples' generosity, was pressing persistently for a separate chapel building, as part of the building programme. ("Always set your target high, gentlemen.") As a result, it was left to him to try for it. Dr. Miller was authorized to plan a fund-raising expedition in the British Isles. He was to proceed to England to obtain subscriptions toward a chapel and, if possible, also toward the new building. He left at once, right after Prize Day.

Dr. Miller was fairly successful, but as he was returning he knew his dream of a separate Ridley chapel must remain a hope for the future. He could not know that it would remain a dream for twenty years and that a terrible world war would intervene before the hope was realized.

Optimism was soon restored otherwise. By October all anxiety about meeting financial commitments was dispelled. People were generous, as the Headmaster had said. Construction of the new Upper School was rapidly nearing completion, and at the annual meeting held in that month, the outlook "reflected a distinctly optimistic tone". In spite of all the construction expenses, and after paying off all current debts, a small operating profit could be declared. The amount already paid on the building was \$71,500, with only \$2,700 owing.

FOR the first time in six years Ridley opened her football season afflicted with a succession of injuries, and ill-luck still followed them in their most important games. This was why three fifteen-year-old lightweights were called upon to play all games – R. B. Cassels (o. wing); R. C. Lee, ma (r. half) and R. E. Maxwell (c. half). They played five and won three games, but the two losses were to their great rivals, St. Andrew's and U.C.C., so the set-backs hurt, especially the 24-0 drubbing inflicted on them by Upper Canada. But they defeated T.C.S. by exactly the same score, and then the Old Boys by 19-9, to close the season. This latter annual game had come to mean almost as much as a battle with one of their rivals in the Little Big Four, and the dinner that night washed out all regrets and self-recriminations. Nicholls' Hall echoed to "*R-I-D-L-E-Y...R-I-D-L-E-Y*" and to their inspiring football songs as it never had before. It was very cold in the poorly heated rink, so most of them dined in sweaters and topcoats; the warmth of school spirit was not quite enough.

During the football season, the boys could admire the graceful proportions of their new School House from their playing field. They could glimpse its impressiveness despite the dust of construction. Created in a combination of bright red brick, white mortar and white stone, they knew it was going to

look as a college should, without the makeshift appearance of a health resort which they had known so long.

Yet the moves from Springbank to Demill's Ladies' College and then to their new Gothic structure was a time of nostalgia, just as it was a period of extreme change which Ridley would never again experience. The home of Ridley would now be permanently on Hainer's Western Hill. Their traditions and customs and, above all, their inspiring school spirit always moved with them and, in this last move, so did many good memories. This was evident in *Acta Ridleiana* which came out three times as usual in 1904, with each issue carrying a lot of nostalgia and an extraordinary number of advertisements – four to six pages of them. *Acta* must have been profitable. The merchants of St. Catharines were showing willingness to support Ridley in her year of adversity. Perhaps the school journal's affluence was also a signal that Ridley was about to move into an era of popularity and prosperity such as had not yet been known.

The editors of *Acta* did not sense it, perhaps because they were so engrossed with memories of old Springbank. One frontispiece was a photograph of the old school "before the fire" – in 1901 – with the editor writing wistfully: "Old Boys of Ridley will even look back with a feeling of longing to the old building, inseparably entwined as it is with so many lasting memories. . . ." The outstanding literary effort in the Ridley's journals for the year was poetry by an Old Boy which was pure nostalgia. Here are his first and last verses, with apologies to Kipling:

A RIDLEY RECESSIONAL

*Spirit of Ridley, known to all
 Who spent fair days beneath thy sway,
 We who have lived within thy thrall
 Never so far can fare away,
 But that thy power will hold us yet,
 We'll not forget – we'll not forget!*

*We all must love the good old school,
 Where many carefree days were spent;
 What though we chafed beneath thy rule,
 Deep in our hearts we were content;
 Thy seat in our affection's firm,
 Until the closing of life's term.*

– J. P. Haverson

There was even nostalgia in the ferry – the punt – they would never need to use again to cross between Upper and Lower School or to reach the cricket field on Western Hill. They would live on the Hill. A succession of punts had been conveying boys across the canal ever since 1891, and it would be difficult to find a Ridley boy who had never rocked the “ferry”, who had never stolen the scull from Mr. Gare and oared the punt off course, or who had never leaped suddenly to shore with a take-off which sent the expostulating passengers behind him several yards downstream, if they were not thrown into the canal. A year or so earlier the punt became fastened to a cable and was pulled, not sculled across, with the fun taken out of the trip. The original punt could be seen sunken beside the canal’s bank; the cable-punt would soon lie on the bottom beside it. (A swing-bridge would be tried, only to be wrecked by the break-up of ice in its first spring. Another would be built for trips to town.)

As they packed up to go home for holidays at Christmas, they were even sorry to be leaving the Stephenson House despite its rats, its draughtiness, poor bathroom facilities and the makeshift nature of a lot of things. The boys in the Welland House had been moved into the Stephenson House some time before, but neither would be soon forgotten. The two hotels had served them well. (*Postscript*: The Welland House still thrives; the Stephenson House was torn down after it had carried a sign for years identifying it as: Puccini Macaroni Factory.)

Ridley Rises from Her Ashes

“. . . Ridley had certainly emerged from obscurity, and even if this was achieved without plan or direction, but by a disastrous fire, a tribute is still surely owing to those who helped Ridley rise from her ashes in almost spectacular fashion.”

ARCHITECTS as a group are prone to clash in their professional opinions about architectural design, and if they did not all admire the building created for Ridley's new Upper School (as it would be known) the Ridleians of 1905 were impressed and proud of it. Its style of architecture was described as perpendicular Gothic – “the latest phase of the pure Gothic”. Colleges of both Oxford and Cambridge had adopted it, and Cram of Boston used it for several outstanding American institutions. Standing alone, as it did in 1905, long before it became so encompassed by later Ridley buildings that little remains recognizable but the front door, it had dignity and seemed to look as an educational institution should. Ridleians of 1905 were easily pleased, of course, because the building now known as School House was such a wonderful improvement over their former spa, even if the loss of Springbank was lamented a little, as the passing of familiar things always is.

The main entrance was a spacious Gothic porch, with leaded glass lights and double sets of quartered oak doors. The inner porch had a handsome Gothic screen with cusped windows of leaded glass. The main hall seemed wonderfully wide; it was dignified by polished black ash woodwork.

The peak of modernity was in the overhead lighting of all the corridors – *new electric lights!* Ridley's new Upper School had the good fortune to be erected during the period of widespread changeover from the gas mantle light to the incandescent lamp. Both electric and gas bills were paid the following March, for gas was still piped into the kitchen; also, the Headmaster may have been cautious, with electric lighting used only on the ground floors until it had proved itself. There were an electric motor and fan in the basement, installed to ventilate the entire building, but the device performed with only intermittent and partial success. It did not ventilate very far, and

for long stretches the motor was dead, awaiting repairs. The sputtering sparks of its first breakdown (on the second day) may have brought sharp visions of fire; a fire-drill was at once staged. Ridley did not contract an undue fear of fire, but fire precautions were never to be neglected.

As you walked through the impressive new Ridley portal, the central administration section was to the right and left of the entrance – a reception room to the right, the Bursar's office to the left. Six classrooms fitted with the latest style in (single) school desks, and a chemical and physical laboratory, were off the main hall. At the east end of the building was the chapel, which would have been a convocation hall if Dr. Miller had succeeded in raising funds for a separate chapel.

"It is well suited for chapel purposes," said *Acta Ridleiana*, "until some rich Old Boys feel able to present us with a special chapel building."

Dr. Miller was content with the prayer hall, even if he had been disappointed in his quest for more funds and a separate chapel. It made a beautiful annex to the College; its high, vaulted roof was finished in varnished wood, and a handsome brick dado about seven feet high encircled the entire interior. Amber cathedral glass was used in the large Gothic windows.

Dr. Miller was now able again to achieve something close to his heart – a Sunday evening chapel service in a proper atmosphere. On Sunday mornings the students were regularly attending St. Thomas' Church, but in the evenings Ridley could again have its own service. It was made bright and appealing, the Evensong Service prescribed in the Prayer Book, with a short address. It was in delivering these that the Reverend Dr. Miller carried many wonderful messages to his boys. As all clerics know, boys are not an easy congregation to impress with lasting effect; they can hear deeply moving things, eloquently expressed, and forget their great meaning with the first new thought to enter their minds. But it was in these short intimate talks to his students that Dr. Miller developed his remarkable gift to carry thoughtful messages which his young listeners not only heard but understood and remembered long. There are Old Boys living today who can still quote some of the wise thoughts he expressed in Ridley's Sunday evening chapel services in these years.

The recompense was in the way the boys grew to enjoy the Sunday evening service; there was a diminishing frequency of attempts to avoid the chapel on Sunday night. The attraction of the service for the boys was revealed in their spontaneous, quite unprompted proposal to replace the piano with an organ – out of their slender weekly allowance. They proposed a regular "organ collection". Even if this was fund-raising on the principle that mony mickles mak a muckle, it was left to the boys as their personal project. Their nickels and dimes piled up slowly; by 1907 there was still far from enough in the organ fund, but offers of large donations were discour-

aged; this was to be the boys' organ. It was not until 1909 that their organ was installed; most of the original instigators of the fund had left, but the new crop were just as proud of "the boys' organ" as they would have been.

To return to a description of School House as it was in 1905: the dining room was at the opposite end of the building to the chapel. Furnished in stucco, with a very high ceiling, the big room had space to seat over one hundred persons. The furniture had been specially made for Ridley. An *Acta* editor called it "The handsomest room in the whole College", but an Old Boy of that day deprecated this by commenting: "He must have been perpetually hungry." He voted for the chapel.

The new library was down the hall from the dining room – a hall lined with group pictures rescued from the fire. A group of Ridley ladies had presented a magnificent bookcase and special library furniture, and there was an immediate appeal for books.

Dr. Miller's family at last had a home which was part of the College. The Headmaster's house adjoined the library.

Shower-baths, lavatories and washroom facilities were adequate for the first time in Ridley's history. There was a well-equipped, if small, gymnasium in the basement, with more shower-baths and washrooms beside wire-fronted lockers.

The Headmaster's pride in the new College was such that the boys took delight in scheming a trap for him. A burlap panel ran completely around the dormitory walls and a stern order had forbidden the boys to put so much as a tack in it. No pennants. No pictures on it. One day Dr. Miller saw colourful Ascot ties hanging on the burlap on the wall of the Fifth Form dormitory; they appeared to be hanging on tacks or nails; he expostulated.

They had him!

The joke was so ingenious, a story on it appeared in the *New York Tribune*, February 19, 1905, which gave the background of the order not to deface the walls and concluded:

"With black frown and angry stride, the master entered the room and summoned the delinquent to explain why he had so flagrantly disobeyed, and to remove the offending tacks (and ties) instantly. With hanging head but twinkling eye the rogue removed the ties, showing no tacks or fastenings on the virgin surface of the wall.

"What? How did you hang them there?" thundered the amazed headmaster.

"They are silk ties and they stick, sir."

The master retired precipitately, amid a roar from a hidden audience who fully appreciated the success of their trap."

(Editor's Note (in *Acta*): The editor can vouch for the truth of the whole story. He feels it his duty to add though, that the "black frown", "angry stride", the "What?", the "How?" and the "thundering" of Dr. Miller, was an idea solely conceived by the writer.)

There are Old Boys who knew Springbank, Demill College and the new Upper School, all three, who disparaged the new building, declaring it lacked character. That may be so for a Ridleian who had become deeply attached to old Springbank, but generations became just as attached to the new Upper School. They remember the trap doors in the third-floor ceiling, and their "hides" in the attic, and the quick christenings they gave to the dormitories: *Forty Below*, *Hoppers*, *Happy Eight*, *S.P.S.*, and *Cosy Corners*.

Present-day Ridleians can find a continuity with 1905 in some of those second-floor bedrooms, one or two of the classrooms, and features of the basement and the front entrance. Almost everything else is gone or altered out of recognition. Memorial tablets were soon on the chapel walls and have been preserved. One was in memory of Llewellyn Price, who had won the Gold Medal for Manliness and also had been Head Boy ('97), another was in memory of Robert Holmes Griffith, younger brother of H. C. Griffith, who died while at school in 1902. (The tablets are now with others in the corridor linking the Memorial Chapel with the "modernized" School House.)

The chapel of 1905 was soon presented with an oak lectern and a chalice. A communion table, made in the manual training class, was ready for the first Communion Service (December 15, 1907). Honour boards (a smaller version of those now in the Great Hall) went up in the chapel, with the names of winners of the Mason Gold Medal and the Head Boys of each year in gold lettering on a black background.

At the end of the first term at Easter, 1905, the entire school knew deep satisfaction for all felt that Ridley College was now safely launched into a new epoch. This was not only sensed by the staff and students; the Board of Directors became so optimistic they decided to raise the fees for the Upper School to \$110 per term. There was dollar-and-cent justification because of rising costs, and also for their new confidence in Ridley's future. Ridley's fortunes were so definitely ascending during 1905 that the annual meeting of the Board recorded an operating credit balance of \$3,300—*more than double that of any previous year*.

The thanks of all Ridleians are due to the many friends of Ridley and the slowly growing, but magnificently loyal body of Old Boys. Even at this early date the members of this wonderful college auxiliary, called the Ridley College Old Boys' Association, were making Ridley's problems and difficulties their own. The specific reason for the success of the fund-raising effort by Dr. Miller and the Board of Directors for the new Upper School was the loyal way in which the Old Boys especially had responded to the appeal for help following the fire. Such items as this also frequently appeared in the minutes of the Board —

"Also recorded are extremely generous gifts to the School by Mr. Mason, Mr. W. G. Gooderham and his four sons, W. H. Gooderham, G. E. Gooder-

ham, H. D. Gooderham and E. D. Gooderham, who all paid for bonds in full and then presented them to the College. These amounted to cash gifts of over \$5,000."

This was a large sum for that time. Mr. W. G. Gooderham was a director and a long-time benefactor. The above four of his nine sons were already Old Boys of Ridley, and Eric was now at Ridley, and would be until 1908. Many more Old Boys, or their families, were in the list of thirty-nine donors toward furnishings and books for the new library.

It was a generosity toward Ridley that was to go on and on, often anonymously and always spontaneously, whether Ridley was in need or not.

The hockey season of '05 had been marked by a new competitor for Ridley – Queen's University – but U.C.C., T.C.S. and St. Andrew's were still not interested although they were icing fine teams, particularly U.C.C. At Ridley, enthusiasm was so high that dormitory teams were actually playing hockey before breakfast (around 5.30 a.m.). Ridley's first team played eleven games, won seven and tied two that winter, but one of the two they lost was a severe beating by Queen's, 12-3. The hockey reporter made no excuses: "Ridley was no match for their opponents." They hoped the game with Queen's could be repeated at Kingston, but the trip to Queen's was never made.

A second Ridley hockey team played seven outside games and a Third Form team played four others, winning three of them. The "before breakfast" spartans were teams known by their dormitories – *Forty Below*, *S.P.S.* and *Hoppers*, with *Forty Below* the winner in a series of six games, generally played in the grey light of winter dawn.

When the hockey players were not on the ice it was crowded with skaters. Dr. and Mrs. Miller gave a skating party, providing a band and refreshments, and with the rink gaily decorated.

This was a wonderful Ridley winter.

The cricket season in the spring of '05 was even better; it was rated "the best since 1897". The previous season Ridley had lost to both T.C.S. and St. Andrew's and knew they were lucky that the U.C.C. game had been drawn, but in 1905 they defeated U.C.C. and St. Andrew's decisively, and for a time a clean sweep seemed likely if they could gain a third victory over T.C.S., but they were short by 29 runs. Lee ma was cricket captain in '05, as Ridley's cricket fortune seemed about to change, though it was obvious the XI still needed a lot of improvement. R. M. Harcourt held the best batting average for the season: 10.2, with R. E. Maxwell achieving the best bowling average, 5.9. Neither season was good; they were terrible, yet they still spelled improvement in Ridley's cricket.

Then it was Prize Day again – the end of the first school year since the new Upper School had been built. Many visitors arrived from Toronto on June 23 to view the new structure for the first time. The Head Boy for 1905 was J. D.

Barter and the winner of the Mason Gold Medal for Manliness, on the vote of the boys, was Moon (F. A.) Lee, cricket and hockey captain, a great footballer and a boy of great integrity.

IT was once more the footballers who won glory for Ridley – by another sweep of the Little Big Four in 1905, to be champions again, with only one mediocre year between championships.

“The season will go down into history as one of the most remarkable in the annals of Ridley,” said the football reporter, aglow with pride. He could not know how many football reporters to follow him would make the same claim in a time of Ridley triumph.

It was indeed a remarkable team. There had been so little optimism regarding their prospects before the season opened that they surprised the side-line experts. They had only four old colours from 1904, and one had been a sub, used sparingly. Only such unquenchable optimists as Dr. Miller and Colonel Thairs had failed to fear a poor football year. It was a very light team, with good weight only in the back division; the tackling line had looked dubious. But they practised assiduously, had the luck to get through the season without an injury, were expertly coached by Mr. Griffith, and won all five of their matches.

The unique feature of two warm-up games with Welland before meeting the schools of the Little Big Four was that the first match was played under O.R.F.U. rules for the Union had adopted at last the modified Burnside rules. The second game was under the rules of the Intercollegiate Union which, contrarily, was to be the last to adopt the new game though the inspiration for it had been Varsity's, including the rules themselves, and the test matches, with Ridley a guinea pig and an ardent disciple. Ridley won both these test games easily.

Then came the big games. They first defeated St. Andrew's, 16-5, at Ridley, then completely overwhelmed Trinity College School on Varsity's Athletic Field, 47-0. They next trounced U.C.C. on their own home grounds, 20-11. (“When the final whistle blew, all Ridleians on hand, young and old, large and small, shouted, cheered and sang till their voices gave out. When they heard the news at Ridley by telephone, joyous riots swept the two school houses. When night came and the lights were out, every boy went to sleep, his head ringing with the thought: ‘*We're champions again!*’”)

That year many new football songs were tried, but the great favourite was “*Hurrah! Hurrah! We're Champions again.*”

In their enthusiasm they first sang Princeton's *Orange and Black* in 1905, a permanent future favourite of the footballers, and of the School, too.

R. C. Lee ma, captain and half-back; R. B. Cassels, inside wing and R. E.

Ridley College

DORMITORY RULES

– 1905 –

1. Every boy must go at once to his own room or cubicle immediately the warning bell rings, and there must be silence until the lights are out.
2. Loud talking after the lights are out is strictly forbidden, and in the Lower School there must be silence after 10 o'clock, and in the Upper School after 10:30.
3. Every boy must get up at once when the rising bell rings and turn down the bed-clothes.
4. No door is allowed to be locked, bolted, or fastened in any way.
5. Boys are not allowed to remain in the rooms or cubicles in the afternoons.
6. No pictures are allowed on the walls unless they are hung from the mouldings or from tops of cubicles.
7. Nails or tacks of any kind must not be driven into the walls.
8. Cutting the woodwork and writing of names in any part of the building is expressly forbidden, except on the boards provided in the gymnasium for that purpose.
9. The position of the beds must not be altered.
10. Food, other than biscuits, not allowed in the dormitories.

Maxwell (ma) centre half, were the only colours to play with the first team in both 1904 and 1905. Moon Lee was first year. The others to reach the heights with the veterans were: M. M. Houston (o. wing); F. A. Torre (m. wing); S. K. Fowler (scrim.); A. N. Sclater (i. wing), J. M. Glen (quarter); J. C. Merrill (m. wing); E. G. Riselay (o. wing); J. R. Hargraft (r. half); H. S. Mills (scrim.); C. M. Bricker (scrim.); L. H. Watts and A. R. Maxwell (subs.). (*Postscript*: All Ridley was thrilling again when they heard that Varsity had won its first Dominion Football Championship in ten years. Coached by the Reverend Biddy Barr, captained by Ridley's mighty Casey Baldwin, and with their own Moon (F. A.) Lee at half-back, this was one of the truly great Varsity football teams.)

The school football songs were not enough for a young Ridleian poet, who wrote this tribute in *Acta*:

THE TEAM OF NINETEEN FIVE

*In days gone by, the Ridley teams
Have fought with might and main
And in both victory and defeat
Have honoured Ridley's name.*

*The spirit which in ninety-nine,
And ninety-seven too,
Has made us feel proud of our school
Has been revived anew.*

*To conquer ev'ry foe they tried,
For victory they did strive,
They won it – so take hats off to
The team of nineteen five.*

– J. W. N.

A new Ridley custom had been launched for and by the prefects. “Before the fire” – a long time before – the prefects had many duties and few privileges, but by the time of the fire they had gained many of the latter. But their regular duties had been reduced to reading the roll call, and not too much else. Dr. Miller changed all that on entering the new Upper School. He began giving the prefects something close to the leadership and sense of responsibility which the Ridley prefect knows today. The prefects responded not only willingly but eagerly. They were Fowler, Glen Goulding, Lee ma, Maxwell ma, Norsworthy and Sclater.

They began taking study reviving a pre-fire custom. A master remained on duty also in the Third Room, but prefects soon took charge of the Fourth and Fifth form study, and could enforce discipline as required. They almost panicked when told they would take turns to read an Old Testament lesson in the Sunday Chapel service, but they did it well. Other demands were re-impressed on them, such as being told anew that they were responsible for the morale of the School, and especially for the moral tone of things among the juniors. As they were worked deeper into the life of the School, they began making suggestions themselves. One was the planting of trees annually by the prefects. Next year they would give a new cup for the quarter-mile run for boys under sixteen.

A new importance for, and a new dependence on, the Ridley prefect had begun. The disruption of the fire had somehow diminished the prefect's role; his status was thus not only restored, his value was so clearly appreciated in Ridley's system of boy-control that his responsibilities would be further developed.

THE first president of Ridley's Board of Directors, Thomas Rodman Merritt, and another great Anglican who had been a leading spirit in the School's founding, Dr. James P. Sheraton, Principal of Wycliffe College, both lived to see the new Upper School rise on Western Hill, but not until the end of its

first term. The contribution both men had made to achieve the establishment of Ridley College had been great, and the debt forever owing to them by Ridley is beyond calculation.

The deaths of these two great men recalled all the details of Ridley's conception and birth. It was the late Principal Sheraton who had called the meeting in his office at Wycliffe at which Ridley College was founded, with Sir Daniel Wilson, President of the University of Toronto, presiding at his request. His wise counsel then guided the group of earnest Evangelicals through the difficult period of negotiation and early establishment, and he headed the committee which chose John Ormsby Miller to be the first headmaster of the new boys' college while it was still only a school on paper. He remained a member of the Board of Ridley until his death, and while he lived no young theological student arriving at Wycliffe was greeted with more warmth and encouragement than a boy from Ridley.

And from the time Ridley's founders had reached a concrete plan in 1888, it was T. R. Merritt who took over and led the group to ultimate success in the creation of the new school. He saw Springbank purchased and was the young Headmaster's loyal and consistent backer through Ridley's first difficult few years, until establishment was secure and expansion could begin. His will left a fund to maintain the Merritt gold and silver medals for university honour and pass matriculants.

The name Merritt is inextricably tied to St. Catharines and the Welland Canal, just as T. R. Merritt's own name will always be linked with Ridley's. It is perpetuated in Merritt House and in his awards.

The College had lost more than just two stalwart friends; two Ridley immortals had gone whose names will be forever honoured.

WITH hockey almost halted in the early weeks of the winter of 1906 by persistently mild weather, the Friday night sessions of the Glee Club gained in popularity, and there was a run on the library for books. A curious *Acta* reporter haunted the desk to discover the type of books being read by prominent Riddleians, and was probably astonished to discover they were all after books we would now call escape literature, *i.e.* the athletes and gay blades looked for serious books while the noted scholars sought triviality. Here were samples on a single evening: Lee ma: *The Art of Dancing*; Cassels: *Science and Health*; Bricker: *Confessions of an Opium Eater*; Dickson: *Edison and His Inventions*; Dennis: *The Well-dressed Man*; Riselay: *Arms and the Woman*; Sims pri: *Forty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*; Burland: *The Way of the Transgressor*; Norsworthy: *Games of Chance*. The librarian reported that all mystery books were out, and that periodic riots were occurring in the Lower School for a turn at *Chums* and the *Boys' Own Annual*.

It was well into February, and they were already thinking of cricket, before R. B. Cassels, hockey captain, led a green Ridley hockey team in the first school match. They did not travel out of the Niagara Peninsula that winter, but before early March thaws had turned the ice into slush they had played six games, winning four. They won and lost playing the new Niagara University.

Only one or two good bats were among the colours of last year who were waiting for another cricket season, but the best of the bowlers were still at Ridley. They expected a great season, but it proved a mediocre year, even if cricket was probably more generally played throughout the entire school than ever before. The first eleven won five but lost four, with only T.C.S. defeated in the Little Big Four matches.

Two cricketers had visited Barbados since the previous season and were now telling of their amazement on finding small, coloured boys playing excellent cricket at every bulge in the West Indian island's lane-like roads, and even on the beaches, with never a baseball bat in sight. To prove their travelled cosmopolitanism, they attempted to give Ridley new cricket terms: "He butting bout in dark" (trying to discover how to bat) . . . "He chinky (stingy) bowler" . . . "He pompassetting in new blazer" (being ostentatious). Barbadian dialectal terms were not added permanently to Ridley's cricket vocabulary, but for some reason this seemed to make pidgin-English the rage. There was a demand at the library for Kipling and other authors using India and the Malay Peninsula as their scene. This, coupled with the current widespread addiction to pig-Latin, made the speech of younger Ridleians not only incoherent but all but indescribable throughout the entire summer of '06. ("There was so much gibberish you'd think they'd forgotten how to speak English in the Lower School. Rep Williams must have taken up pig-Latin at least, for he overheard a lad saying something like, "Etslay neaksay ounday ountay isthay teraftay oonay," and told him, "You will not sneak downtown isthay ayday or tomorrow either, sir!")

In surveying Ridley's years this propensity for sudden adoption of new fads and fancies seems one of the most intriguing features of school life. It occurs, of course, wherever young folks congregate, but the isolated boy-population of a boarding school is the perfect breeding ground for sudden new whims or an abrupt, and often inexplicably intense, preoccupation with a new game or hobby. The interest of the boys could fade just as quickly, and sometimes all would grow bored at once with a short-lived fad. A lot of things, such as magic, were taken up with tremendous enthusiasm at intervals of every few years. Great interest in the black arts seemed to go in a cycle, fading out, then returning with a new generation of young Ridleians. The natural attraction of magic for a boy was enhanced because in those years no vaudeville programme was complete without at least one magician

or a soothsayer claiming occult powers. At intervals of four or five years, Ridley would be the victim anew of a fresh invasion of sleight-of-hand artists making things vanish, turbanned Hindu fakirs blowing wheat-straw reeds to try the rope trick or to make imaginary snakes disappear, and assorted palmists, crystal gazers and gypsy fortune-tellers. Even sword-swallowing was attempted. There was a wave of hypnotists. This year, magician sets, complete with trick mirrors, mysterious drapes, boxes with secret drawers, things which dripped blood or emitted smoke, were once more everywhere. Some boys could do amazing tricks with a piece of store cord, to testify to hours of practising with nimble fingers.

The limerick fad was one of those which waxed and waned, but which always came back with fresh versions of "There was a Young Man from Kalamazoo – or Timbuctoo" – offered even at breakfast. The upper forms disdained such childish literary creations, and the editors of *Acta* were generally superior to the lowly limerick, but these two of 1906 survive in private memorabilia –

*There was a headmaster of note,
Went over the Falls in a boat,
He waved his beard high
And kept it quite dry,
And Joe is now nicknamed The Goat.*

*The kids were kept giggling in fits,
By a noisy buffoon of St. Kitts,
His unseemly antics
And vulgar semantics
Only gained him the cane where he sits.*

Acta did permit a limerick to creep into an issue of 1906, and then used them as fillers more frequently. Perhaps this jibe encouraged the jinglers:

*We have a fine tenor named Max,
Whose voice not infrequently cracks,
But he seems to feel prouder,
And sings all the louder
To make up for the music he lacks.*

As "Max" – R. E. Maxwell – was on the editorial committee, it is probable that the make-up editor, J. M. Glen, slipped the limerick into print as a jest. The others on the editorial committee were Mr. H. C. Griffith, editor-in-chief, Mick (S. K.) Fowler and J. W. Norsworthy. The latter two were the highly



THE SCHOOL ELEVEN OF 1906

Back row (l. to r.): J. P. Alexander; J. M. Glen; A. R. Lee; Mr. E. G. Powell; R. C. Lee (Capt.); Mr. H. C. Griffith; R. B. Cassels; R. E. Maxwell; E. G. Riselay. *Front (l. to r.):* J. R. Hargraft; S. K. Fowler (Scorer); A. N. Sclater; A. R. Maxwell; J. A. Christie.



WHAT! A GIRL AT RIDLEY?

Miss Nannette Miller, daughter of the Headmaster, was a student at Ridley, 1904-8; she was the first girl-student, and the only one ever to attend the Upper School. In her 1904 class in Lower School above are (l. to r.) Bill Rosevear; Ricky Foote; Dick Boyle; Nannette; Eugene Murphy; A. Bradley; Dick Leach and Art Lee.

Presidents of Ridley, 1900-1942



MR. GEORGE H. GOODERHAM,
President of Ridley,
1912-1942



MR. J. HERBERT MASON,
President of Ridley,
1900-1911

successful advertising space salesmen who were enabling *Acta* to avoid red ink in the publishing statements.

Ridley's customs also seemed to intensify and fade just as their fads and fancies rose and died again. Some activities of Ridley's early days were taken up with such enthusiasm they appeared on their way to becoming a school tradition, then something else would capture student interest and would shelve them. A Fifth Form supper held in 1906, an hilarious and hugely enjoyed event, recalls that form suppers became tremendously popular after the first Cross-Country Run in 1891 had been celebrated by a supper, with lavish helpings of oyster stew. For some years, form suppers appeared about to become a school tradition, but now they are held only intermittently.

The popularity of some Ridley sports had similar variation. Cricket, football and hockey maintained first place in student interest through all years, but their schedules helped. They were not one-day tests. Just now, the track-and-field sports were rising toward a peak of popularity, reached a few years later, when the runners and jumpers were considered quite as important athletes as the stars of the team sports. The senior and junior champions of the annual games became highly distinguished campus personages. A policy of encouraging team-sport and of not making too much of individual champions, had a depressing effect, but the heyday of the road race in Canada, both walkers and runners, was beginning.

The Olympic Games would always help keep the track-and-field sports prominent to some degree, but they would rise and fall in cycles in the schools and colleges. At Ridley, such sports would have become of first importance in the life of the School if inter-school tournaments had been arranged, with Little Big Four champions declared. The value of team-play loomed too strongly for Ridley to urge this seriously, but one or the other of the four preparatory schools made the suggestion at intervals. It never succeeded. As a result, the public exhibitions of track-and-field remained confined at each school to one or two days each year. The policy was firm to create great teams, and great team- and school-spirit, and not individual athletic idols.

Despite this handicap, interest kept rising until 1914. The Headmaster always encouraged the games, even if cricket was by far his first interest; he had been doing so since the fire even more vigorously than before, though his special attention to the track-and-field sports dated back to Riddleys' first year.

The Old Boys felt the same way; through their donations in 1906 of much new silverware, which arrived in time from the silversmiths, a wonderful array of new and old cups and medals was on display in Nicholls' Hall by June 1. The renewed interest was reflected in ten entirely new trophies: the V. Boyd Challenge Cup for the Junior Championship; the Tuckett Cup for

the Senior Mile; Baldwin Cup; Trinity Cup (presented by Old Boys at Trinity); Varsity Cup (presented by Ridley undergrads at Varsity); the Dr. Miller Cup for the Senior Quarter-mile; the Staff Cup for the Senior hurdles; the Platt Cup; the Jarvis Juniors' Cup; and the Old Boys Cup for the Senior 220 yards, presented by the Association.

Some of these were annually presented for years, and special interest would be now taken in training the juniors as Ridley looked ahead. There would be still more awards next year.

The line-up of trophies was glittering enticingly on the presentation table, waiting to be won, as Ridley's 1906 track-and-field sports were staged on a beautiful June day. A. N. Sclater won the Senior Championship with stiff competition offered by R. C. Lee and Paul Johnson. A. R. Maxwell was Junior Champion. A great new runner was uncovered in G. L. Burland. He broke the dead-heated record (5 min. 25 sec.) of Nelson and McGiverin in 1901 in the mile, and also the half-mile record of 2 min. 20 sec. established by N. W. Hoyles in 1899.

In 1905, R. E. Maxwell had broken M. H. Gander's 1898 record of 57½ seconds for the quarter-mile by 2½ seconds. His .55 would stand awhile.

The increased interest in the games had inspired a volunteer archivist to research field days of the past to bring up to date the times and distances which had been established as school records, before they were lost and forgotten. His list of records below is far from complete; until 1895, the officials did not bother to use either a stop-watch or a tape-measure. But the following were accepted as the challenging Ridley standards of the track-and-field events until 1908, when a long stretch of years began for which all records are lost in limbo.

RIDLEY TRACK-AND-FIELD RECORDS – 1906

<i>Dashes</i>			
100 yards	1898	M. H. Gander	.10 ² / ₅ sec.
220 yards	1902	J. A. Greenhill	.24 ² / ₅ sec.
440 yards	1905	R. E. Maxwell	.55 sec.
<i>Runs</i>			
Half-mile	1906	G. L. Burland	2 min. 18 sec.
Mile	1906	G. L. Burland	5 min. 7 sec.
<i>Hurdles</i>			
110 yards	1898	J. H. Wade	19½ sec.
<i>Jumps</i>			
Running	1898	J. H. Wade	5' 2"
High Jump	1899	M. H. Gander	
	1905	E. G. Riselay	
Standing			
Broad Jump	1901	H. D. Gooderham	8' 10½"
Running			

Broad Jump	1900	F. M. Stark	20' 3"
Running hop, step and jump	1898	M. H. Gander	40' 11½"
<i>Specials</i>			
Throwing			
Cricket Ball	1907	R. C. Lee	115 yds. 2' 6"
Putting Shot	1899	M. H. Gander	38' 2"
Pole Vault	1898	M. H. Gander	8'

These records should have been constantly bettered in subsequent years as track conditions, equipment and training improved, and they were all broken eventually, but no one knows the times and distances achieved between 1908 and 1921 inclusive. The shot putters and pole vaulters were still virtually self-taught, and they were still breaking for the sprints from a half-crouch, and even for the quarter-mile would go off from a standing start. There were certainly fast runners between 1908 and 1914, and even if none proved to be such a great natural athlete as M. H. Gander of the 1898-9 period, some records must have been broken. As they learned style and form, how to break with leaping momentum, and how to take off for the jumps with the greatest thrust, and as spikes replaced their running (tennis) shoes, the performances of Ridley's track-and-field men would naturally improve long before stop-watches and tapes were again in use in 1922.

The following of the above records were still standing after records were again registered between 1922 and 1925: R. E. Maxwell's quarter-mile in 55 seconds (1905) was still on the Ridley record book in the 1930s; so was M. H. Gander's mark of 10.2 for the 100 (1898); so was G. L. Burland's 5.7 time for the mile (1906), though his 2.18 for the half-mile was dropped to 2.10 by Harry Griffiths in 1930; the much-tied record of 5' 2" for the high jump (J. H. Wade, 1898; M. H. Gander, 1899 and E. G. Riselay, 1905) was tied again by Sanderson in 1922, to be beaten by both senior and intermediate jumpers in the 1929-30 period. F. J. Stark's record running broad jump of 20' 3" in 1900 was still another mark to last beyond the 1922-9 period.

Training methods, equipment and general style of the runners and jumpers improved rapidly during the heyday of road-racing between 1908 and 1914, and it is not meant as a disparagement of these earlier track-and-field greats when Old Boys say they think all records were probably shattered in these years, except perhaps Gander's .10 $\frac{2}{5}$ for the 100-yard dash. No one knows; they may have been overly enthused about the ability of the athletes of their day.

There was one really astonishing feat in the track-and-field marks recorded up to 1906. That was the mighty heave of a cricket ball by R. C. Lee in that year. No one at Ridley before or since has approached Joey Lee's throw of 115 yards 2 feet 6 inches. This contest is no longer listed with Ridley's events

on Sports Day, but if it were, Lee's record would probably still stand. (A cricket ball weighs half an ounce more than a regulation baseball.)

TRACK-AND-FIELD CHAMPIONS (1905-6)

	Senior Champion	Junior Champion
1905	E. G. Riselay	A. R. Lee mi
1906	A. N. Sclater	A. R. Maxwell

Ridley again had beautiful weather for their 1906 Prize Day, and another fine crowd of friends and relatives was on hand to mark the end of the school year. The Head Boys for scholastic proficiency and the winners of the Mason Gold Medal for 1905 and 1906 were:

	MASON GOLD MEDAL FOR TRUE MANLINESS (on the vote of the boys)	HEAD BOY (Governor-General's Gold Medal)	HEAD BOY of the Lower School (Mason Gold Medal)
1905	F. A. Lee	J. D. Barter	G. E. Blake
1906	J. M. Glen	J. W. Norsworthy	K. W. McLea

It was in 1906 that the new University of Toronto Act was passed to place higher education in Ontario on such a secure footing that few amendments were felt necessary for the next half-century at least. And it was on Prize Day that Ridley heard with pleasure that the Act's provision for a Board of Governors for the University of Toronto had paid just honour to an Old Ridleian, already distinguished in Canadian education. He was the Reverend Dr. D. Bruce Macdonald ('89-'91), Headmaster of St. Andrew's College. Dr. Macdonald was to lend his great abilities to the University and its Board for forty-three years. He became chairman of the Board of Governors in 1932 and served until 1945.

An old Ridley teacher of Dr. Macdonald's was to be his close associate in the affairs of the University of Toronto throughout this entire span of years. The Reverend Dr. H. J. Cody had been a master at Ridley during the period Don Macdonald attended the School as a boy, and he was to be president of the University of Toronto from 1932 to 1945, the same years in which Dr. Macdonald was chairman of the Board. Dr. Cody was then chancellor (1944-7). Not unnaturally, the School felt there was reflected distinction in having two eminent Ridleians in the two senior posts at the University.

The period between 1903 and 1906 had been dull for Ridley's observers of the international scene; without a war the news was flat. The outbreak of the Russian-Japanese war in 1904 was so remote it was not even as exciting as the launching of the first *Dreadnought* in 1906, the first all-big-gun battleship which was revolutionalizing the world's navies. The big news story of 1906 had been the San Francisco earthquake and fire. But not this, and in fact nothing since their own fire in 1903, could match in sheer excitement and emotional elation for Ridley the word by telephone from Toronto late one

Saturday afternoon for the few stay-at-homes, that Ridley had again beaten Upper Canada, and were Football Champions of the Little Big Four for 1906 – *for the second year in a row!*

It was almost unbelievable. To hit the most coveted of all football targets two years in succession, and three times in the last four, was going to make the school-conceit of a Ridleian of any period rather hard to bear in the environs of Upper Canada, St. Andrew's or Trinity College School.

They sang, *Hurrah! Hurrah We're Champions Again!* as if it were the permanent Ridley victory song (which it was).

They had secretly expected a second triumph, but that did not make the reality any less joyful. That Joey (R. C.) Lee, football captain, would once again have a great team was certain; he had nine old colours of 1905 to form the backbone of that year's team. Once again, they were generally outweighed by their opponents, but yet again the difference was made up in superb diving and flying tackles and the kicking and running ability of the backs.

It was a remarkable backfield; the half-line was comprised of two pairs of brothers, R. C. Lee (ma) and A. R. Lee (mi) and R. E. Maxwell (ma) and A. R. Maxwell (mi). The "brothers of the backfield" were campus heroes. On the line, the work of last year's veterans was lauded, especially that of Cassels, Houston and Fowler ma, but the new men, Scandrett, Baylitts, Torre, Merrill and Johnson, and even the spares, Ehni and James, all responded to the invincible drive inherent in the team. They won all their five games, defeating T.C.S. 43-1 and St. Andrew's, 23-9 and then, as quiet Colonel Thairs once more gleefully shouted, they "clobbered" U.C.C. 18-11 on their own ground.

It was well their great football years of 1905 and 1906 could be savoured in full. Ahead was a row of dark years; in 1907, Ridley did not win a single game; in 1908 and 1909 they did not win a single Little Big Four game (a sad fate they have never suffered since). There would be a five-year championship drought. It was not until 1912, when football captain Laddie (Hamilton) Cassels led another great Ridley team, that they could once more sing, *We're Champions Again*.

At the close of 1906 all was pride and prosperity at Ridley. Throughout the year the Headmaster had been faced with the pleasantly worrisome problem of inability to provide room for all the boys applying for admission. Such a transformation was inspiring, even historic. This meant the new Upper School of which they were so proud was already too small! It was only a year old. The popularity of Ridley with parents was accelerating beyond all expectations.

Ridley was very clearly in an era of rising success and, incongruously, it all seemed to date from the disaster that destroyed Springbank in October, 1903. The fire, which had seemed so crippling at the time, had served to focus public attention on Ridley in a way only calamity can achieve; involved perhaps was admiration for the fast recovery of the boys' college from its disaster. In

any event, Ridley had certainly emerged from obscurity, and even if this was achieved without plan or direction, but by a disastrous fire, a sincere tribute is still surely owing to those who helped Ridley rise from her ashes in almost spectacular fashion.

MATHS ARE UTTER ROT

*The angles in a circle and the tangents of a square,
Are equal to each other plus the one that isn't there.
While the volume of a circle plus the surface of a line,
Can be proved to be just equal to the tangent less the sine.
Now please to bear in mind when you're working at this sum,
How very dangerous it is to dare to chew some gum.*

*But it is far more pleasant if you feel you have the strength,
To postulate your axioms, with lines of equal length,
And when you get the answer you must pass that simple rule,
Which everyone is bound to know unless he is a fool,
That every circle in the end must just become a dot,
Which shows us all quite plainly that Maths are utter rot.*

– Acta.

The Complacent Years

“... the College serenely enjoyed its success and affluence, content to put aside ambitions for more and more physical expansion, and a longer and longer student-roll. It was good judgment, if it also reflected a lot of justified self-satisfaction and complacency.”

RIDLEY's prosperity expressed in terms of students in such numbers they taxed the capacity of both classrooms and dormitories, continued high. The School had progressed to an enviable plateau where there was a choice; either immediate extensive physical expansion could keep numerical growth accelerating, or the College could consolidate while enjoying a sound bank balance and freedom from financial anxieties.

The Board of Directors had been alert to the new popularity of Ridley with parents in 1905; the Upper School had its full quota of 127 boys, and their annual report for that year had commented: “We must next September ('06) face the problem of providing another building, or letting business go by.” September '06 had come and gone, and it was evident they had been unable to resist the opportunity, at least not entirely. The needed new dormitory was rapidly being erected; when it was finished and occupied would be soon enough to mark time. But when Ridley did pause in expansion, she did so seriously. After the new dormitory – The Dean's House – was erected in 1907, and opened in 1908, the decision to mark time was so firm that another new dormitory was not erected for fourteen years, although a war helped to halt building.

When the new house was opened in January, 1908, another step was taken in the development of Ridley along the lines of the English public school system. The Upper School building was re-titled the School House and the new dormitory was called the Dean's House, because Ridley's senior master had been unofficially called “The Dean” for the past ten years. In 1899-1900 The Dean was Mr. W. B. Hendry, B.A., who was followed by Mr. W. G. Kirkwood, B.A., in 1900, who left and was succeeded in 1903 by Mr. H. C.

Griffith. The Dean was now Mr. E. G. Powell, M.A., maths master, who had recently been married and who would stay so long at Ridley, with increasing honour and respect, that he became an integral part of the school. The title for Dr. Miller's assistant did not seem to survive beyond Mr. Powell, but the christening of the new house did. (When Mr. Powell moved into the Dean's House he became Ridley's first housemaster.)

The Dean's House cost had been attained through generous subscriptions for College debentures. Dr. Miller specially mentioned the help given by Mr. W. G. Gooderham, who was also interested in Upper Canada; his brother, Mr. G. H. Gooderham (now M.P.P.); Col. R. W. Leonard, the philanthropist who was to donate millions to Canadian education and who had been a generous donor toward the Upper School; Mr. W. G. Trethewey; Mr. R. J. Christie and, as usual, Ridley's president, Mr. J. Herbert Mason.

The financial provisions reflected the friendship which existed between Dr. Miller and the Gooderham family, and also the friendship between Mr. Williams and Col. Leonard. These fortunate attachments would lead to even greater benefactions which were still in the unknown future. (The gift to Ridley of Gooderham House and a new Lower School provided largely by Col. Leonard.)

The Dean's House provided for thirty additional boarders; by September, 1908, it was filled to capacity. So was every bed in School House. Ridley could have expanded again immediately; the opportunity was certainly present. Instead, the mark-time policy ruled; for several years Ridley serenely enjoyed her success and comparative affluence, content to put aside ambitions for more and more physical expansion and a longer and longer student-roll. It was good judgment, if it also reflected a lot of justified self-satisfaction and complacency.

The Dean's House at once created its own identity, and began to fashion its own customs and to sprout its own traditions. The inter-house rivalry began which would later strengthen the morale of the School as a whole, as the house system came into full operation. Dean's House made the start by at once entering teams in inter-form sports.

If Ridley's almost incessant expansion programme had temporarily slowed, the tempo of school life seemed to accelerate, to quick-march. The historian felt that her pace was even faster than that; perhaps because so many Ridley "firsts" are already in the past, and safely noted in this narrative, his impression of these years was that Ridley's story now began to leap from event to event, from football season to cricket time, from Prize Day to Prize Day. The same features and big days in the life of the school occurred year after year, but from this point forward they often seemed to race. Each would have fresh aspects and some new highlights, but they were all Ridley's. Each phase or period would have new faces, new names and new personal achievements, but they were all those of Riddleians. What has happened is that for the historian

the turning of Ridley's terms had fallen into a firm general pattern, into a regular cycle of the seasons. It would go on and on, though academic policies and school customs would be refined and altered, and though the familiar Ridley people of 1907 to 1909 would be replaced by others, and those by still others.

The pace of this narrative can only quicken to coincide; it is unavoidable that details and experiences in the life of Ridley will now often seem blurred, with some things left for assumption. There are so many years – and generations of Ridleians – to enter the Ridley chronicle.

RIDLEY AND THE CANADIAN SCENE

IF Ridley was complacent, this only meant the School was attuned to the Canadian times. Until the shock of 1914, Canada's complacency was probably the salient characteristic of the young nation which sometimes acted as if it felt its pioneering was done. It would never be quite done for either country or college. It was certainly far too soon for the growing, infant nation to lapse into complacency but, secure behind the protective shield of the Royal Navy as one of the family of British nations, and with a powerful neighbour to the south for a friend, there was no military threat to Canada in sight. Her only excitement was in taking her internal politics very seriously. She had recurrent economic threats, but they were just growing pains. The country's comfortable contentment was jarred severely by the recession called "The Panic of '08", when the Canadian West was hard hit (to inspire Sir Wilfrid Laurier's politically fatal Reciprocity Election in 1911), but the Canadian people just voted and then returned to the complacency which was becoming a Canadian characteristic.

There was no closer student of the peaceful Canadian scene than Dr. Miller, Headmaster of Ridley College. If he did not understand the Canadian society, how could he be successful in shaping boys to play a prominent role in the service of that society? A keen, scholarly observer, he realized that a distinct Canadian culture was still not discernible; it seemed to be developing imperceptibly, without direction or plan, if at all. This disturbed him though he knew the pattern of any young nation's life takes a long time to form, and then to shape itself as it grows until it clarifies and becomes understandable. Canada, he knew, did not yet understand herself, but he greatly underestimated the time which would elapse before she began to do so, or even before the country began resolving sectional and racial differences and had hopes of producing Canadians in a single identifiable mould. He could not guess that this would still be as far off between 1950 and 1960 as it was between 1900 and 1910.

He made the mistake perhaps of taking Ridley's students as his guide; the majority of them were Canadian-born, as they had been even in the Nineties. There was a larger proportion of them at Ridley now than would be found perhaps in an average Canadian community. Their values were right; they reacted to things, and sometimes rendered judgment, in a way that was neither English, Scottish, Irish, French nor American, and was as close to a Canadian way as you could find. It made him believe that the growth of a distinct Canadian identity would be rapid. That was probably his only serious misjudgment of the Canadian scene and its trends. He was not alone; few yet foresaw that Canada would develop as a country with two languages and two cultures.

Dr. Miller seems to have had a sublime faith in Canada. His speeches and articles in these years, and even his ten-minute addresses in the chapel on Sunday evenings, often testified to this. He obviously felt that if culture is the set of values by which a people lives, and which it uses to form the framework of its society, then Canada's culture was at least well based. The values of a high-principled, decent nation would be passed on to future generations. He felt Canada had the potential character to become one of the great nations of history.

This was why he was particularly disturbed about the lack of vocal Canadian nationalism. He could not understand its absence. In Canada's background were her United Empire Loyalists, who had staunchly decided to adjust any differences with the Home Government by negotiation, not war, and the French Canadians, who had been virtually abandoned by Napoleonic France. Neither group had a guilt or shame in the past to live down or cover up. All Canadians could take pride in such a background, but it was still a dual background, and there were underlying unresolved resentments in French Canada. To obtain a deep, emotional national feeling with such divided viewpoints was impossible; at least, after another fifty years it would still appear a vain dream.

A reserved English-born Canadian, Dr. Miller looked a bit askance at the drum-beating, flag-waving type of nationalism by which the United States was successfully assimilating the melting-pot of immigrants demanded by her industrial expansion, but at the same time he wished Canadians were not so inarticulate about their nationalism.

He blamed Canadian education. He felt that national feeling was being left to develop spontaneously without plan or propaganda, which is a good way, but it seemed to him that at least more inspiration and sense of direction could be given to it by both education and the national leadership. The factor he felt was neglected and missing was an historical sense which most Europeans have from the cradle. He noted this in Ridley's students who were fine representatives of Young Canada; if they lacked it, so would all Canadians.

And they did lack it, because of confusion engendered by that dual culture and dual racial background. To make Wolfe and Montcalm national heroes at the same time does not encourage national single-mindedness.

To Dr. Miller this could slow the growth of specific Canadian thought and attitude for decades, for without an historical sense the pride of country which is the core of a sensible nationalism does not develop. Lack of it could be like an unseen blight on the cultural growth and development of the nation. His view was right enough but he failed, as so many did, to realize that French-Canadian resentment would grow into such an intense desire for preservation of the French background that it would become the only nationalism with which they would associate themselves. Canadian nationalism was stymied and would remain stymied.

Some fault still rested with education and Canada's lack of appreciation of her own history. Her universities had not yet reached an enlightened view of history as a subject of study. It did not begin to turn up in university curricula with regularity until after the Kaiser's War, and it was then only looked upon as a mental discipline. Several years would elapse before history would be treated as the major link between the sciences and the humanities. There were exceptions, such as the work of Prof. Wrong at the University of Toronto, but on the whole this was true. History was being taught in all Canadian preparatory schools, but its relation to the study of the social sciences and to an understanding of our own and others' cultures was still inadequately grasped. As a result, the provincial departments of education were not pressed and were in no hurry to revise their history textbooks.

What could the headmaster of a comparatively small preparatory boys' school do? Apparently, Dr. Miller felt he should try, for he had a strong conviction that an educator should be a thought-leader and should never be content with merely following an unimaginative syllabus. He had already followed his 1891 text, *Studies in Ethics*, with another, *The Students' History Note Book*, and now he produced still another volume on history for school use: *Brief Biographies . . . Supplementing the Study of Canadian History*.

His new book was a brave effort. It was intended to catch the attention and impress Canadian boys with the colourful history of their own country and thus to contribute to Canadian nationalism. It could not fail to interest Canadian schoolboys because it was based on the early explorers and adventurers whose lives make fascinating reading for a boy, especially when lifted, as he lifted them, from the mass of historical dates, reigns, battles and treaties so boringly familiar in school texts and dramatized them a little. Dr. Miller wanted history taught in this way; texts were not available to assist in it, so he was trying to fill the need himself. His book made living people out of mere names in the current history school books.

His selection of characters for his *Brief Biographies* reveals that he was

concentrating on Canadian history only. He included Columbus, Jacques Cartier, John and Sebastian Cabot because they had first brought the continent to human knowledge, but the others had a direct relation to Canada. Here are some of them: Vancouver; Laura Secord, the heroine of St. David's; Selkirk; Mackenzie; Captain Cook who charted the St. Lawrence and was with Wolfe at Quebec; Montcalm; Wolfe; d'Iberville, conqueror of Newfoundland, fur-trader and Hudson's Bay explorer; Frontenac, who broke the power of the Iroquois; La Salle, who fell ill at a fort at Queenston; Father Henepin who explored the Niagara River and reported a mighty water falls "600 feet high"; Dulac, the doomed Indian fighter and, of course, Champlain.

In the 1950s, we would still be regretting our inarticulate nationalism, even though two world conflicts had intervened since the Headmaster of Ridley College was disturbed about it. Canada was threatened and deeply involved in both wars, which are periods in the life of peoples when nationalism wells up like a flood as Canada's did. But as a lasting vocal nationalistic feeling did not result even under the spur of war, it is apparent that Mr. Miller's attempt to inculcate a sense of history and a more apparent national pride could not be expected to have marked effect. But he was tackling it in the right place – in preparatory education – and it is good to know that he tried.

That he did so will help explain the character he was giving to Ridley – and to the young Ridleians who passed on each Prize Day.

THE BIRTH OF RIDLEY'S CADET CORPS

THE long desire and persistent effort by Dr. Miller, Colonel Thairs and one or two members of the Board with Federal political influence, to have Ridley's drill-squads converted into a properly equipped and officially recognized Cadet Corps was suddenly realized. The Department of Militia and Defence had succumbed to the assault, first launched ten years before.

The first encouraging word came in 1906; the tone of the Headmaster's communications from Ottawa was encouraging, and the promise seemed authentic. Col. Thairs was in a stamping impatience that fall; a dream seemed about to come true. During the winter he introduced his drill-squads to the platoon drill of the latest infantry training manual, in use by the 19th Regiment. He was ready, long before the Headmaster gave him the word to start recruiting volunteers. *Acta* had given a broad hint to the School in its Christmas issue: "The signs of the times are pointing to a Cadet Corps for Ridley College. Though drill has been the portion of the boys' lot, we have hitherto done without blaze of colour or blare of trumpet."

The boys were not excited. ("Those *Acta* fellows have been listening to gossip on the Ridley-telegraph again.") But much more than scepticism was

reflected. Perhaps neither the Headmaster nor Col. Thairs fully sensed that this lukewarm reception of what they considered inspiring news was actually a widespread dislike of a drill-squad. There was no welcome for the prospect of the tedium and discipline of a cadet parade-square. This feeling was the culmination of a reaction by the boys to the lack of both purpose and uniforms, rather than just to the boredom of the drill-squads; it had developed rapidly since the fire. Their few wooden rifles had vanished even before the South African War, with the squads degenerating recently into little more than compulsory PT classes. To illustrate the boys' current viewpoint: if one of them could contrive to escape drill he was applauded.

The reception for the new cadet body was not helped by Col. Thairs' vigorous return to infantry-type drill in preparation for the great event. A parade-square can be a boring misery for a boy, and now the constant marching and counter-marching to the Colonel's stentorian commands seemed appalling. Perhaps they sensed what it was going to be like when he started teaching rifle drill with real rifles!

To Col. Thairs' pleased astonishment, the Army refuted its long-standing reputation for slow and deliberate channel-to-channel action and shipped uniforms before the Ridley Cadet Corps was official. The Quarter-Master General went into action ahead of documentation, a surprising thing. The Corps was in uniform in the spring of 1907, but it was late in the year before this historic posting appeared in the *Canada Gazette*:

Cadet Unit No. 162: Ridley College Cadet Corps.

Col. Thairs had been recruiting volunteers during the winter of 1906-7 with disappointing results, despite the report in the Easter issue of *Acta*: "A large proportion of the boys in the Upper School have joined."

This was more hopeful than true. There was no rush of volunteers. The first photograph to be taken of Ridley's uniformed Cadet Corps in the spring of 1907 disclosed a total strength of only forty cadets, including N.C.O.s and officers. Because of his consternation at this lack of interest by the bulk of the boys, Col. Thairs did not at first appreciate that he already had the nucleus of a wonderful corps, the boys who were so keenly interested they could defy the scorn of a large group of older boys. These first volunteers were ridiculed for needlessly submitting themselves to the monotony of the drill-square, the discipline, sharp commands and firm demands of Col. Thairs. They knew he was not a martinet, but they also knew from drill-squad experience that he brooked no nonsense on parade. Now it was on or off parade, for the Colonel was seriously intent on placing the military mark – the mark of a smart cadet – on every member of the School. A boy with a slouch was snapped erect as if hit in the rear by lightning – *the Colonel's cane*! A sharp order, which was to

ring in the ears of Ridley boys until they were stout old gentlemen, was now echoing often in the halls: "*Take your hands out of your pockets!*"

These signs of stiff discipline did not help recruiting, but his policy was sound. If he had to build a Cadet Corps from scratch it was going to be on a proper basis. You don't make a good cadet by pampering him and saying please. The real cadets would take it.

For the moment, there was thus far more enthusiasm for Ridley's Cadet Corps among the Old Boys, the members of the Board and Ridley's many friends, than among the boys in the school, except for that first earnest group of forty cadets. All of these rightly sensed that a great and lasting Ridley institution was in the making. Platoon drill prizes were awarded by Old Boys Ab Taylor and C. N. McCuaig almost before uniforms arrived. Through Mrs. H. S. Osler, the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire at Toronto promised a silver-mounted Ross rifle for the best shot in the School. It became a coveted award, later provided for years by the St. Catharines I.O.D.E. Old Boy H. B. Greening offered other annual prizes for rifle work.

Ridley Cadet Corps' first captain was S. K. Fowler. His cadet lieutenants were Lee ma, Maxwell ma and Bob Cassels. They were respected and popular boys, but they had a rough time with a few inveterate scorners and even one flippant volunteer who donned a uniform but let all know he was only "playing tin soldiers for the fun of it". He was the boy who was indignantly kicked out of the cadets for ridiculing the Corps by coming on parade late – *dragging a toy cannon on a string!*

In contrast, some truly great soldiers of the war of 1914-18 were gaining a fine grounding in Ridley's first uniformed Corps.

It was the episode of the toy cannon, and the open ridicule of the cadets, which brought home to a disturbed Headmaster, an enraged Colonel and three highly incensed young cadet officers, that building a strong *esprit de corps* entailed much more than supplying a uniform. Ridley's Cadet Corps was indeed starting from scratch.

The creation of the right spirit was achieved, of course, and soon. In the Ridley way, the development was certain to occur which would right everything. A boy, or a succession of boys, who possessed both inherent qualities of leadership and the respect of the boy-population, would completely alter the attitude of the School. It soon happened; a series of boys became cadet captains who made membership in the Cadet Corps a proud thing. It occurred within four years.

Despite the mixed attitude toward the Corps, the arrival of uniforms, their issuance and fitting made a memorable performance. It would have helped if they had been smarter. Included were heavy rifle-green serge tunics, ill-fitting and uncomfortable, the same rough material for breeches and a forage cap. Even when they wore the forage cap with a cavalier tilt (until told sharply

how the cap must be worn by Colonel Thairs at the first dress parade) the Corps only looked smart at a distance.

The rifles were the important item, even if they were old pre-South African Martini-Lee Enfields, cut down for cadet use to carbine size. Because this weapon was declared by Col. Thairs in all seriousness to be the rifle that "built the British Empire", it added a pronounced touch of the soldier. Excellent Ross target rifles – three of them – were issued for work on McNab ranges. In 1907, the whole Corps had fired at McNab for the first time while they still waited for uniforms. A series of elimination rounds still left a big field to shoot for the I.O.D.E.'s silver-mounted Ross. The first winner was Cadet Lt. Bob Cassels.

There was nothing of course wrong with the morale of the cadets themselves; the jeers of others had generated the first strong loyalty to the Corps. The cadets tried so earnestly to stage a smart parade for their first annual inspection in 1908 that Capt. Galloway, from Military District No. 2, could be honestly complimentary. They actually did well for a one-year-old cadet corps.

The Corps moved another step forward toward full-fledged establishment in the spring of 1909, by joining the 19th Regiment in its annual Church Parade for the first time. The 7th Field Battery also turned out. This was the start of the Cadet Corps' long, friendly association with the 19th of which Col. Thairs was a former Commanding Officer. It was also the first occasion on which Ridley's Cadet Corps was on public display. ("The earnestness of the paraders was wonderful to behold.") The St. Catharines *Standard* reported the Church Parade:

"The Ridley College Cadets in their neat, service-like uniforms of navy blue with red facings, were the admired of all admirers. The little fellows marched in perfect alignment, and with the step and precision of veterans. Every movement was executed with surprising accuracy, and the cadets showed a most praiseworthy interest and enthusiasm in their work.

"The corps is a credit to the College and their instructor, Lieut-Col. Thairs. It is of the pluck and spirit manifested by the plucky young soldiers of the College that the heroes of the coming years and the stoutest defenders of their country will be made."

The report's compliments were appreciated, but it gave the cadets a salutary lesson in the truth that you should not believe everything you read in the newspapers. Their uniforms were dark rifle-green, not blue with red facings. A small thing, but important to every cadet. The *Standard's* reporter had confused the dress uniform of the gunners with those of Ridley's cadets. Cadet Captain Frank Bonebrake marched to the *Standard's* office and expostulated which did not have any effect, but his action at least proves that *esprit de corps* was rising fast.

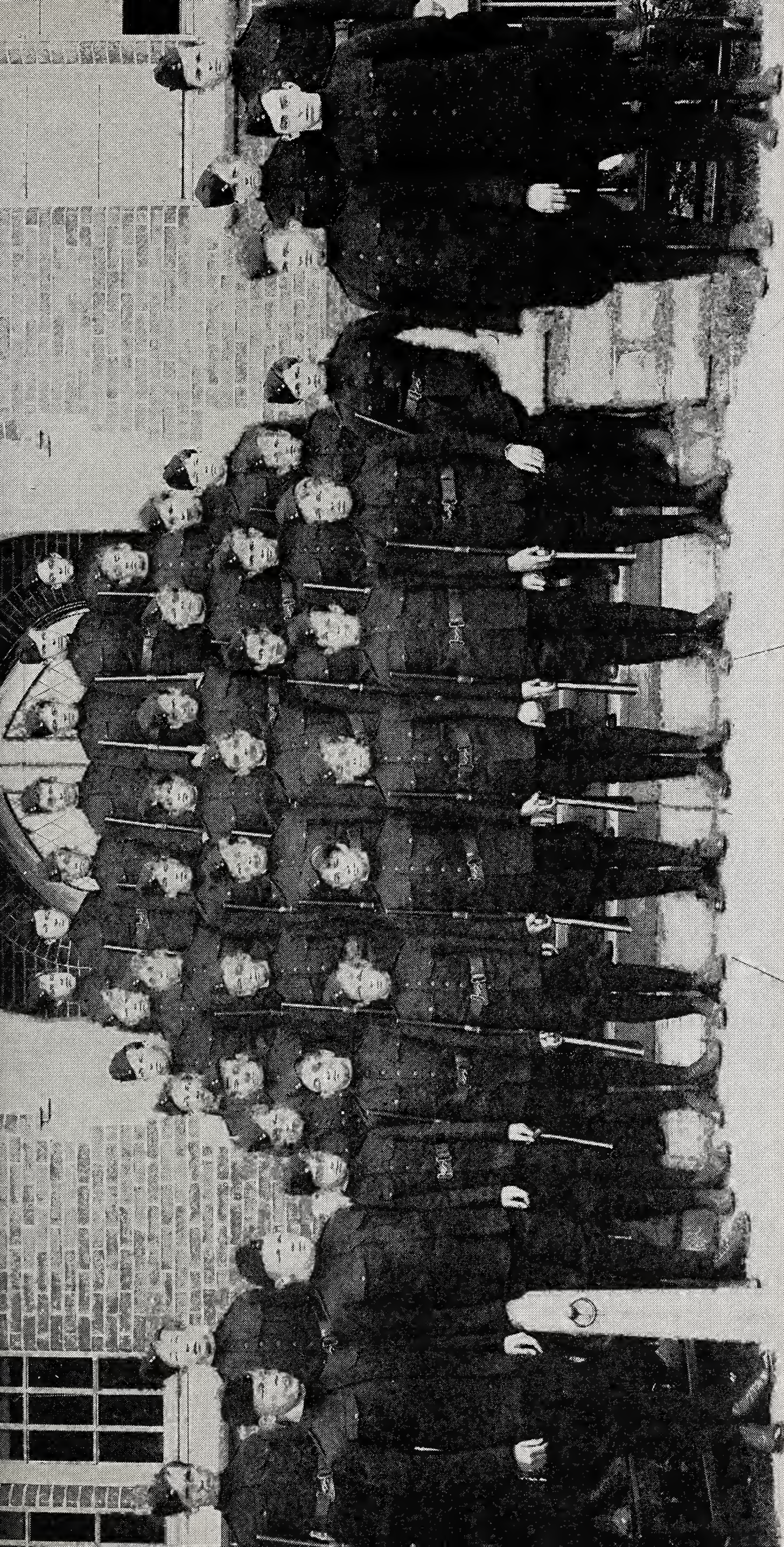
It was no doubt the rifle-green uniform of Ridley's cadets, coupled with a

visit in 1911 by Sir Henry Pellatt, Hon. Colonel of the Q.O.R., which gave rise to the rumours (still believed here and there) that the Corps was allied variously with the British Army's King's Royal Rifles, or the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, or the Little Black Devils, a militia rifle regiment of Winnipeg. They all wore rifle-green, but this was the only link; the rest was sheer idle conjecture. An alliance between army units requires the blessing of the Throne, and a cadet unit can have no more than rather loose affiliation with a regular or militia regiment, though the regiment can make this close and valuable if it realizes that the cadet corps can be a source for fine young officers. Ridley's Corps was quite unofficially associated in a friendly way with the 19th Regiment. The first actual official affiliation with a non-permanent military formation did not come until World War II when they were adopted by a bomber-squadron of the R.C.A.F., a link that was short-lived, but which changed their uniform permanently to airforce blue.

The Corps' first public parade in 1909 had indicated a good cadet year. The average weight and height of the boys was less than in the two previous years, but their intense interest ensured efficiency and made up for all else. In May they route-marched to Port Dalhousie and had their first experience in manoeuvres in imaginary enemy country. On their return, with haversacks long empty, the weary and ravenous cadets marched past Col. Campbell of the 19th on Church Street and, when dismissed, they invaded Ridley's kitchen in an unsoldierly rush. They were late for the supper hour, but the Matron fed them well.

Another first for the Cadet Corps in 1909 was the beginning of a long series of annual suppers following their annual official inspection. It was a suggestion by the Headmaster. Col. Galloway had been again assigned to inspect the Corps and, this year, with Dr. Miller and Col. Thairs at the saluting base, their company-in-line march-past was well done. Nothing reveals troop-training so quickly as that long line, and they did it like regulars. ("Col. Thairs was beaming.") Their section drill was also carried out with fine snap and precision.

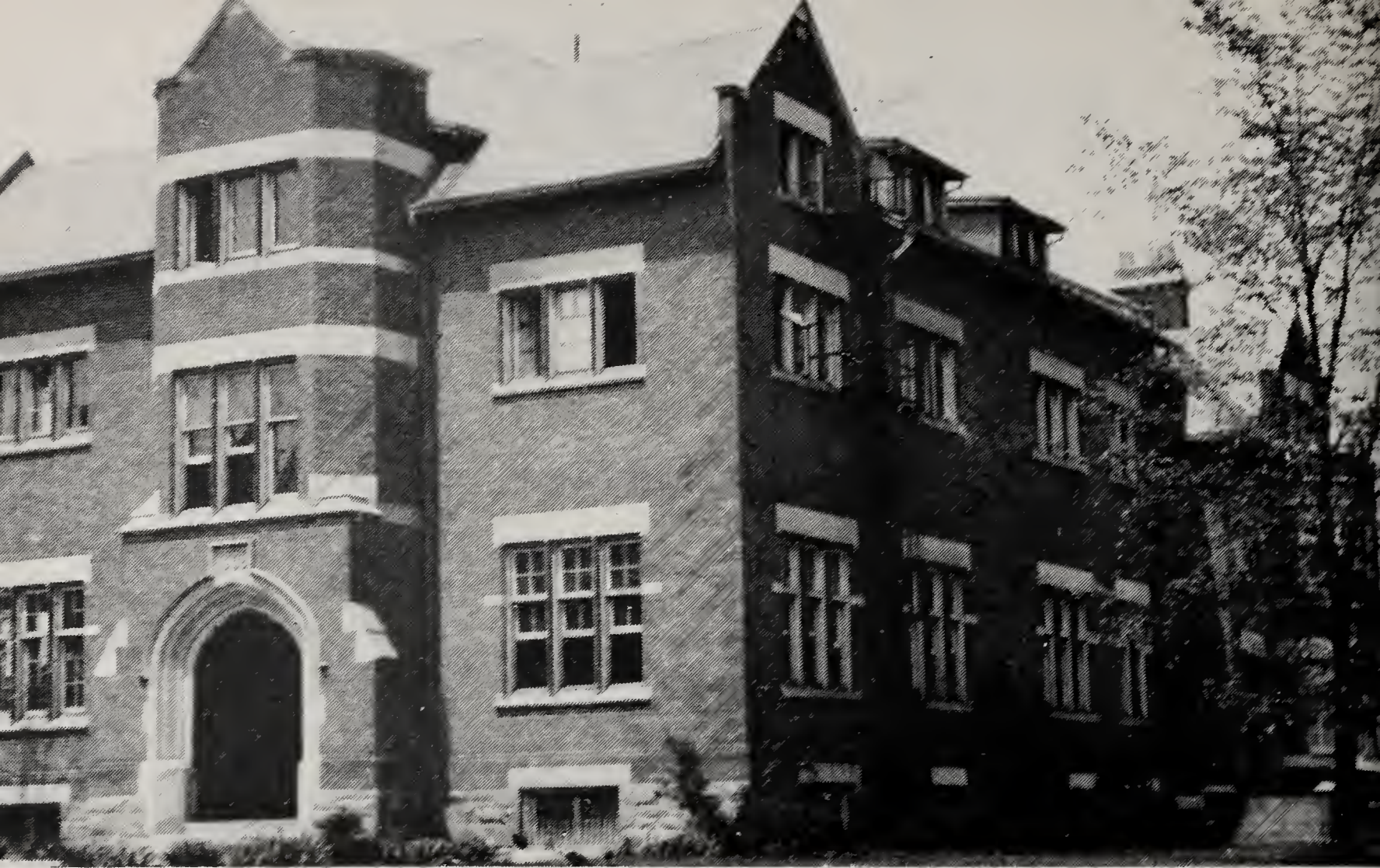
To the Headmaster, the establishment of the long-desired, uniformed Cadet Corps meant a marked consolidation of Ridley's position as an important independent school. To him Ridley's Cadet Corps represented much that Ridley held worthy and right – loyalty and unstinted devotion to the service of the nation. He felt that Canada's militiamen – the citizen-soldier – epitomized the basic tradition of Canada; nearly all political and social developments had been linked to the citizen-soldier to some degree. The cadet was his young counterpart. In a sense, too, Ridley's Cadet Corps was a tangible manifestation of the basic principles of good citizenship and its responsibilities which Ridley taught. He was intensely proud of the Corps; there was little Col. Thairs could ask for the cadets that would be refused.



RIDLEY'S FIRST UNIFORMED VOLUNTEER CADET CORPS

— Officially gazetted, 1907: Cadet Corps No. 162 —

Above, at full strength (all volunteers): 4 officers, 4 N.C.O.s and 34 cadets. Rifles were pre-South African Martini-Lee Enfields cut to cadet (carbine) length. Uniforms were rough rifle-green serge. *Left front*: Cadet Capt. S. K. Fowler and Cadet Lt. R. B. Cassels, with Serpts. J. P. Alexander and R. D. Albertini in rear. *Right front*: Cadet Lts. R. C. Lee and R. E. Maxwell, with Serpts. W. L. L. Gordon and J. A. Christie in rear.



THE DEAN'S HOUSE, OPENED 1908

The new dormitory confirmed that Ridley's pattern of development would be by the house system, Mr. E. G. Powell, in charge, was Ridley's first housemaster.

In Honour of Mammy Cleghorn



The Late Housemother

Matron Ann M. Cleghorn,
housemother from opening day
in 1889 until her death in 1907.



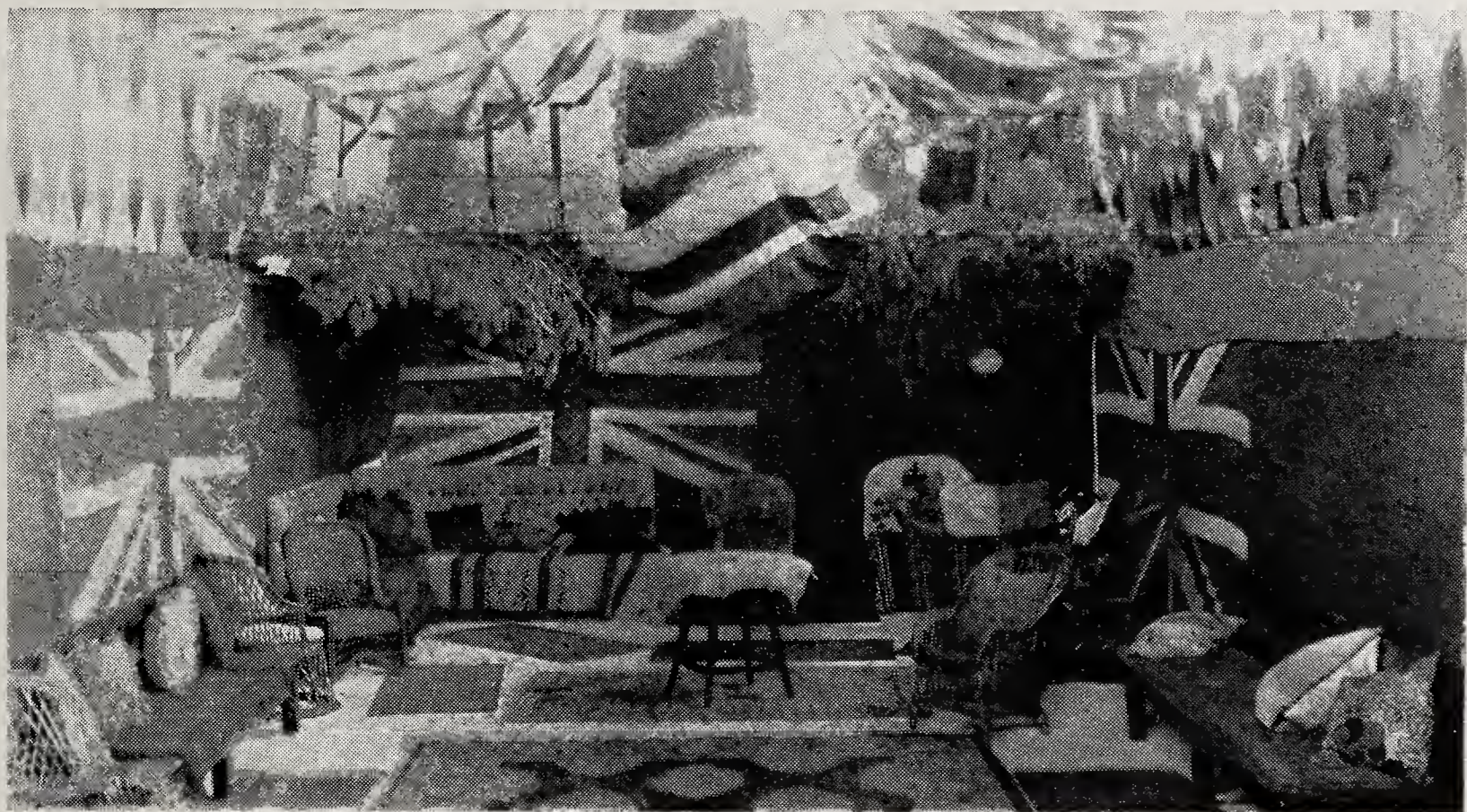
In Memoriam Plaque
Placed in the chapel by the
boys in honour of beloved
Mammy Cleghorn.



THE LIBRARY OF THE UPPER SCHOOL

The library and dormitories were still gas-lit in the new school, but experimental electric lights illuminated the halls. Ridley never ceased adding to her libraries.

Ready for the dance . . .



A COSY SITTING-OUT PLACE

The swimming tank was drained and decorated for Ridley's first Cadet Corps Dance in 1910; it was then a popular sitting-out place for several years.



VARSITY FIRSTS, 1907 — THE COACH, AND SIX PLAYERS FROM RIDLEY

Rear oval: J. Ramsay; H. Clarke, Mgr.; H. Conly, trainer; F. S. Parke; V. C. O'Grady; *Ridley's Bob* (R. B.) Cassels; *Ridley's Moon* (F. A.) Lee; Hugh Gall; A. G. Brown, Sec'y; J. Pearson; C. Thoms. *Seated, Top:* *Ridley's H. C. Griffith*, coach; *Ridley's Murray* (M. D. A.) Kennedy, captain; W. W. Lailey, President. *Centre row:* *Ridley's Mike* (H. G.) Kennedy; F. S. Parke; M. E. Nasmith; F. Macdonald; A. Heather. *2nd row:* H. E. Shaw; A. Duncanson; W. Sifton. *Front row:* *Ridley's Gink* (W. E.) Doherty; *Ridley's Joey* (R. C.) Lee; R. W. Cory; W. Coryell; J. Newton and Eddie Beaton, mascot.

It would be a long time before all boys would be expected to belong to the Cadet Corps. It would be some years before cadet officers could give detentions and the Corps could enter effectively into the system of boy-control which Ridley has developed so well. But that advance was now safely on the way.

Perhaps the new cadet uniform inspired other clothing changes and sartorial innovations. The seniors officially adopted the straw-boater for spring and summer but stayed with the Christy for autumn and winter, and many Sixth Formers began wearing the exotic Turkish headgear, a fez. It was orange and black. The fad did not last. Norfolk jackets were suddenly made compulsory; but this did not last either. It may have suggested the idea of a school uniform, which was discussed several times but finally dropped. Eton collars were the bane of the Junior's existence; just now, an Eton suit was again compulsory for them on Sundays, and the Eton collar every day, but the boys found so many excuses to avoid wearing the collar that it amounted to passive rebellion. When fresh from the laundry they scratched tender young necks; besides, the trouble they had getting ties under them in the morning, and holding them up during the day, was more than a boy should be asked to bear, especially if habitually tardy in the mornings as most boys are. They had been wearing such a variety of clothing they presented a very motley appearance, so a firm order said: Wear the Eton collar and keep wearing it. (*Postscript*: The Eton suit vanished but the Eton collar was worn in the Twenties; it was ordered to be worn in 1927 on Sundays. The choir boys still wore them in the 1940s.)

The hockey goal-keepers were also trying a new uniform – a thigh-, knee- and shin-guard to replace the wicket-keeper's big pads, which they had long worn, and which did not entirely disappear for several years. Eventually a full-length leg-guard was developed from the cricket-pads, but they were now trying strips of cane over their shins sewn into a sort of elongated spat; they also tried American football trousers – bloomer-like pants with felt-padded knees and with strips of cane down the front.

In comparison to today's elaborate goal-keeper's equipment the protection looked and was flimsy, but H. E. Rough, who tried the cane shin-guards and football bloomers in Ridley's goal in 1907, thought he was wonderfully outfitted for the hockey wars.

Goaler Rough was largely responsible for Ridley's fine hockey record in '07; they won 8 of their 9 games.

Life at Ridley that spring was marked by a general programme of astonishing good behaviour. The boys had discovered they could be sentenced to "outside detention", which meant to hard labour on the rock-pile; *i.e.* to working on the dam for the new swimming pool. A paper mill upstream had befouled The Twelve, so if they were to swim they must have an artificial pool. It was being rapidly created in the ravine behind the Upper School, hence the penal servitude on the dam. Later, a windmill was erected to pump fresh-water into

the pool, which proved extremely popular, but the water had a tendency to stagnate and grow smelly. (The position of the pool was between the present chapel and Merritt House, in a ravine now filled in.)

The boys did not mind working on the swimming pool's dam when the student-telegraph told about a new gymnasium to be built shortly: a subscription list was already started to collect donations for the gym among the Old Boys, with Old Boy Albert Taylor the leading fund organizer and collector.

Sergt. J. Williams, an experienced boxing and wrestling instructor, now joined the staff for a time. In conjunction with wrestling and gymnastics, boxing was to experience a new period of popularity long before the new gym could be ready (in 1910).

A new fives court of red brick was built with the dam, just beyond the row of beautiful maples, southwest of the Upper School, and handball came back to popularity with a rush. It had lapsed since the wooden court was destroyed in the fire. (*Postscript*: A quarrel over the use of the new fives court, which included fisticuffs, drew a reprimand in *Acta*: "We are sorry to notice considerable friction between the Fifth and Sixth, and hope a more friendly spirit will in future be shown between these forms. Friendly rivalry in all things is to be commended, but anything further is sure to hurt the school.")

In the winter of '08 the Department of Militia and Defence sent along more equipment for the cadets: half a dozen beautifully tooled .22 Ross rifles for indoor shooting at miniature targets. This, rather than the work on McNab ranges, was probably the real foundation of Ridley's future intense interest in shooting. Distances could be simulated up to 800 yards, and shooting could go on all winter. Col. Thairs was an excellent range instructor, and somehow he found target space in the crowded little gym in the basement of the Upper School. (He later moved the indoor range to the rink.) In time, the entire school would be shooting as this start was steadily developed.

IN 1907 it was the turn of Trinity College School to make history in cricket; their first XI defeated Ridley by six wickets and then went on to win the cricket championship of the Little Big Four with a sweep, rare so far in cricket, until Ridley made a habit of it a few years later. The Ridley eleven won six, lost three, with one match drawn, and with the first game ever played between the Aura Lee Club of Toronto and Ridley a feature of the season. Aura Lee lost by 46 runs in an all-day match at Ridley on Empire Day. (*Cryptic note in Acta*: "The prize offered by Mr. Griffith for the boy in the school wearing the most beautiful (?) pair of socks was carried off by Mr. Cooke of Toronto.")

Not so cryptic was the very light, two-hour detention sentence imposed on thirteen boys who sneaked out of College after study on Friday, June 13. The whole expedition was so disastrous they thereafter firmly believed this

date – or the number thirteen at least – was even unluckier than superstition said. The distant jangling music of a hurdy-gurdy drifting through the study windows was to blame. It reminded that Sells' circus was in St. Catharines. It was too enticing to resist. But nothing went right. The only two boys who were temporarily "millionaires" backed out at the last minute; four boys became panicky and tried to sneak back in, but were nabbed anyway; four others got lost and never saw the circus; the three that did only had twenty-five cents between them which they spent on a "Boston lunch" – one plate of pork and beans and three forks. They then tried to sneak into a side-show, but were caught and booted off the circus lot. When they tried to sneak back into the School, they were again caught. ("After a messed-up expedition like that, we decided to go to bed on the next Friday the 13th and to stay there, just to be safe.")

The end of the term was marked by the departure of Mr. H. C. Griffith, who left to join the staff of Trinity College to teach French. Mr. Powell replaced him as editor-in-chief of *Acta*, and the last issue he edited opened with a *Valedictory*, followed by a *Vale* written by Dr. Miller who paid a sincere tribute to Mr. Griffith for his years of service and many contributions to Ridley's life, as student and master. On the day of the Old Boys' cricket match, a presentation of a gold watch was made to Mr. Griffith by the students and the College in a ceremony in the chapel; Mr. Griffith was deeply moved by the expressions of regard.

It was not then known that Mr. Griffith would return to Ridley by 1911, but this was a sufficient interval not to make the presentation and farewell seem premature. This was not always the case later; one master left the Lower School in June, was presented with a typewriter, and unexpectedly came back to the Upper School (with the typewriter) in the autumn. Suddenly changed plans resulted in several similar embarrassing situations through the years ahead.

Mr. Griffith had been the first Ridley student to return to teach, and this year the second returned as a master – P. D. Mitchell ('98). He taught in the Lower School and was certain to be popular with the boys from the first day, for he was a fine athlete and had won the first Mason Gold Medal for Manliness in '03, when he was also Head Boy.

Another master to leave was W. A. Prideaux, who was going to England to study for holy orders. He became a missionary in the Canadian West.

The Lower School also lost its beloved Scottish matron, Mrs. Ross Mackenzie; her sons had left Ridley and were in business, and she was not well. The juniors bade her farewell with sincere regret, and in gratitude for her loyal devotion the College presented Mrs. Mackenzie with a silver tea service.

They were going to miss her skill and kindness in caring for boys who were ill, for 1907 and 1908 were scarlet fever years in Canada. It was so

serious and general the newspapers took to calling it "the Canadian plague". Ridley had its share of cases in all forms, but especially among the juniors. A wise house mother is invaluable in such periods, especially when things get tedious for active boys under quarantine. (*Postscript*: Scarlet fever was again so serious at Ridley in 1912 and 1913 that there was a check-up of health precautions, as there was in all schools in the province.)

The younger boys (under 14) of Mr. Williams' Lower School, who had been Mrs. Mackenzie's special charges, often had unusual experiences in their outside team games. It was a permanent policy to schedule a good number of outside games. It helped morale. In the fashion of the English house system, the Lower School had traditions of its own and cherished its own *esprit de corps*. But in seeking competition they often caught a tartar, when they really needed good *esprit de corps*, such as the football team which beat them 105-0. The boys took it in stride.

The Lower School boys could not find hockey competition, but their cricketers and footballers generally had as rivals, teams from St. Catharines Collegiate; Highfield School (succeeded by Hillcrest, and now Hillfield); Lake Lodge School of Grimsby, a small boarding school (now closed for twenty-five years; St. Alban's, a Toronto school (now long closed) and, occasionally, junior teams from the other schools of the Little Big Four. (Ridley's Lower School played St. Andrew's in cricket for the first time in 1902; their first football games against their young counterparts at St. Andrew's and U.C.C. were not until 1910.)

IN MEMORIAM

IN OCTOBER, 1907, the College had lost that great-hearted Lady of Ridley, Miss A. M. "Mammy" Cleghorn, the House Mother since Ridley's historic opening day back in 1889. She died from pneumonia after a short illness. *Acta Ridleiana* honoured her memory in a unique way; her photograph was published as a full-page frontispiece to its Christmas issue.

Editorially, *Acta* said it all: "For nearly nineteen years, upon her heart, upon her life, were deeply graved the words of the College motto: *Terarum prosim.*"

The entire combined body of Ridley students and Old Boys was mourning. Old Boys attended her funeral in great numbers; others sent flowers, and many later wrote the Headmaster from far parts of the world. Ridley's motto, which fitted her life so well, stood out in large letters on the bronze plaque placed in the chapel in her honour.

There was another sad day for the Old Boys of Ridley that year when the untimely death occurred of one of Ridley's cricket greats, a young man who

was not yet thirty but who was already the right hand of his father, the railway pioneer, Sir William Mackenzie. Alex W. Mackenzie ('93-'97) had prospects of great wealth and a notable business future; when he died of pneumonia, he was treasurer of the Great Northern and a director of many national corporations. Alex had been football captain in '96 and in '97; he was also both hockey captain and the powerful mainstay of the cricket team, scoring Ridley's first century. The second had yet to be recorded. His interest in Ridley had never lagged; he had headed the Old Boys' subscription list after the fire in '03. Canada, the Old Boys and Ridley had lost a great man.

THE ST. CATHARINES CYCLONE

TO the boys one of the most exciting of all events at Ridley between 1907 and 1910 occurred in Ridley's birthday-year – her twentieth – in 1909. It was a rough way to help her celebrate it. In the early spring the Niagara Peninsula had been swept by a series of unusually high winds and blustering wet weather generally. While the boys were at home at Easter, such a big blow took place that the St. Catharines *Standard* called it a cyclone. It wiped out miles of peach orchards and was certainly the nearest approach to a wind of cyclonic proportions which the School on Hainer's Hill had yet known or has known since. When the boys returned to school, Nicholls' Hall appeared to be completely wrecked; it wasn't, the roof had been blown off their precious rink and one end had been blown out, but it could be and was repaired long before the next hockey season. The most astonishing damage by the capricious wind was done to their comparatively new brick fives court. It had been completely demolished.

The cyclone did so much damage that Ridley had to postpone Prize Day of 1909 from June to October.

There was wreckage everywhere, including the loss of several of Ridley's finest trees. Fortunately, only a few elms had been blown down, for which the boys, the masters and the Board were all sincerely thankful. If the term "campus" was seldom in common use by the boys until they had gone to a university, this masters' and Old Boys' term now fitted the general Ridley scene as no other could. The School's surroundings had taken on much beauty through care of her green playing fields and the growth of shrubs, hedges, well-located trees and ivy. Ridley's setting now gave everyone the impression of the mellowed grace which Ridleians used to wish for their school during the Nineties when school and playing fields had been divided by the canal. Ridley had that graciousness now, and it would be enhanced more and more impressively as the years passed.

A sense of dignity, distinction and permanency was added this year when

Ridley's crest was cut into stone and the stone was inserted as a centre-piece above the arched main entrance of School House. It was a suggestion by the Headmaster to mark Ridley's twentieth birthday.

The cyclone could not be blamed for Ridley's dismal fortunes in their two great team sports, though they were worse in 1909 than in the other years of the period, all of which were bleak. In cricket Ridley lost two and tied one of her Little Big Four matches in 1907. In the St. Andrew's match, Ridley was defeated 79-23, which was cricket history of a sort; it was the lowest score Ridley would make against St. Andrew's from 1900 to 1959. They did better in 1908, defeating Upper Canada narrowly (133-126) and St. Andrew's also (181-115 but losing to T.C.S. by 217-42, a frightful beating. This match made T.C.S.-Ridley cricket history; those 217 runs were the highest score T.C.S. was ever to make against Ridley (at least, up to 1959). Yet the season raised hopes for a great year in 1909. When they collapsed, the Old Boys grew testy and no one around the school wanted to talk cricket – "or even to talk, period".

The cricket captain for the twentieth birthday year was A. R. Maxwell, as fine a cricketer as he was a football captain. Rain and wind ruined their early practices, and with only four old colours left from 1908 the prospects for the anniversary cricket season appeared dismal. They won four, lost four and tied one match (against Niagara Falls). No one was happy, neither the cricketers, the staff, the boys nor the Old Boys. The cricket commentator wrote sharply: "Stupid running probably cost us the game against U.C.C. and cautious and stiff batting was our downfall against T.C.S."

It is suspected that their *Acta* cricket reporter might not have felt so irritated and caustic if the First XI had not come a cropper against a new competitor, Mimico Asylum. To the School's startled surprise they went down to defeat by 16 runs. (*Cricket note*: "It is worthy of mention that Art Lee got the hat trick against Mimico Asylum at a time when it looked as if our team might hunt leather the rest of the day.") He was a very unsympathetic sports reporter.

The harried Ridley cricketers could not know that the most notable turn in the entire history of Ridley's cricket was waiting ahead in the near-tomorrow. It would begin in 1910. All phases of their cricket play would improve even if they did not win a championship that season. The 1910 team proved the base for a sweeping victory the following year, and after that victorious Ridley cricket would be sustained for many seasons. It was the turn of the Ridley cricket-tide.

While Ridley's social calendar was still very limited her annual games constituted the gala event of each school year. Between 1907 and 1910 an increasing number of parents and visitors arrived, which induced Ridley's officials to plan well. It has been suggested that the excitement and interest shown in track-and-field was caused by Ridley's great difficulty to hold her own in cricket and rugby after 1907, and until at least 1910. But this was not

so. Ridley and her spectators were merely reacting to the Canadian athletic times. Heel-and-toe walking was just reaching its peak in popularity, with Canada's George Goulding, world's champion heel-and-toe walker, giving a tremendous impetus to its popularity among Canadian youth. The Tom Longboats, Dorandos and Alf Shrubbs were national heroes of their countries, with match races drawing huge crowds everywhere, and not the least in Canada. Foot-racing was so popular that even eight-year-olds were learning heel-and-toe walking or training as runners in almost all Canadian towns and villages. Municipalities held annual track meets, and foot-races became the main features of fall fairs. The Thanksgiving Day programme of races, which have continued to this day at Guelph, had been started. The interest of Hamilton in distance running had begun and still continues.

Ridley's great school spirit was behind the enthusiasm for the track sports. They were probably leading the preparatory schools in giving them importance, but they were actually only up with this Canadian trend. They did it in style with the help of the Old Boys. To add colour to their Sports Day, the 19th Regiment Band was engaged to entertain the crowd of spectators, who increased steadily in numbers each year until 1914. The display of medals and silverware became even more imposing in 1907, the Old Boys adding the following trophies: The Harcourt Cup for the Senior Half-Mile; the Rough Cup for the Senior High Jump; The Mason Cup for the Junior Hurdles; the Cassels Cup for the Junior 100 yards; the Ogden Cup for the Senior 100 yards; the Lee Cup for the Junior Half-mile; the Trimmer Cup for the Junior 220 yards.

A third class was added in 1910, when Ped (E. H.) Anderson ('89-'90) donated a beautiful Intermediate Challenge Shield for the first time, with replicas for the winners. An intermediate classification had been long overdue; from 1910 it was permanent.

By tradition, the First Lady of Ridley, Mrs. Miller, presented the trophies to the winners late in the afternoon; her task required nearly an hour.

The unique feature of the 1907 Annual Games was that the Fowler brothers won both the Senior and Junior Championships. There were fast men in the sprints in 1909 and some great jumping in 1910, but if school records were broken they are not known because, in 1908, the long gap began in which stop-watches and measuring tapes seemed to be deliberately forgotten.

TRACK-AND-FIELD CHAMPIONS, 1907-10

	<i>Senior Champion</i>	<i>Intermediate Champion</i>	<i>Junior Champion</i>
1907	S. K. Fowler ma	—	R. P. Fowler mi
1908	A. R. Lee I	—	J. H. Acheson mi
1909	L. P. McDougal	—	H. Cassels
1910	W. H. Woolworth	E. E. Strathy } S. P. Trench } tied	H. J. Hazen mi

WINNERS OF RIDLEY'S HIGHEST HONOURS, 1907-10

	MASON GOLD MEDAL FOR TRUE MANLINESS (on the vote of the boys)	HEAD BOY (Governor-General's Gold Medal)	HEAD BOY of the Lower School (Mason Gold Medal)
1907	R. C. Lee ma	R. B. Cassels	K. Jarvis mi
1908	W. L. L. Gordon	R. D. Albertini	A. L. Bishop
1909	A. R. Maxwell	H. V. Wrong	V. R. Irvine
1910	N. H. Daniel	G. E. Blake	F. C. Betts

Presentation of the academic awards and the Mason Gold Medal for Manliness in 1909 was on a Prize Day in October in the midst of still another bleak rugby season. The debris of the cyclone in March had been long cleared away, and Ridley's twentieth anniversary year was marked by addresses by distinguished educators. They had been invited by the Headmaster in a determined effort to improve the awful sameness which had crept into Ridley's Prize Days. The change in tone was refreshing. The members of the Board of Directors who had been making Prize Day speeches for years were probably more relieved than the boys, parents, Old Boys and visitors, for their finest oratorical messages must have been delivered long before. The speakers were President Falconer of the University of Toronto; Principal D. Bruce Macdonald of St. Andrew's, a Ridley Old Boy; Canon Cody, a former Ridley master; and Professor George M. Wrong, a director of Ridley. They were all excellent speakers and, besides, each had something fresh to say.

Prize Day's change of pace did little to ease the autumn's football despair; the situation had reached that state by the birthday year. The blight even infected the Juniors in 1909; their football team scored only 2 points all season, while 101 were scored against them! All was disaster by this year in both Upper and Lower School. The glory of 1906 had grown dim.

To go back to 1907, the football season can be sadly summed up in the opening remark of the rugby reporter's review: "The season just passed will be long remembered by the string of defeats sustained by our teams." Both Mr. Flynn and Mr. Mitchell worked hard with the many green men on the first team, but either too much cockiness after the great football successes of 1905 and 1906, or lack of fighting spirit, made them a pale image of recent times. *Acta's* reporter bluntly wrote: "There was a grave lack of that proper spirit of doing one's best."

They met Hamilton *Alerts* for the first time, losing 21-5, and then lost in succession to St. Andrew's, 11-27; to T.C.S., 16-31; and to U.C.C., 9-29. It was a relief when that awful season was over.

But 1908 was no better, and a pall of gloom descended on Ridley's football supporters. It would not lift until this bleak rugby period which Ridley was suffering had ended. They had a fine football captain, A. R. Maxwell; he was gritty, a great player and an inspirational leader, but that was not enough.

Mr. Griffith came over from Toronto for two weeks to drill the team, but that was also to no avail. They could only win a single game. That was the season's opening match against Aura Lee, the first time Ridley encountered this Toronto club. They won 13-5 which was promising, but their season's score sheet disclosed no other wins and three losses – all to their rivals of the Little Big Four! The best the football reporter could say was: "It is to be hoped we have learned lessons from our defeats."

The dismayed Old Boys were hoping – perhaps even praying – that never again would Ridley suffer such football humiliation as to be beaten by each one of their school rivals in turn in the same year. Ridley suddenly had deep sympathy and great respect for the spirit of T.C.S. They had known little else but defeat in rugby for several years, but they came back with renewed determination season after season – and never offered a single alibi.

Ridley did not, either. But as the 1909 season neared, the pleadings, prayers and exhortations which the new team heard were enough to awaken a desperate degree of determination but it won only a single football match for them – against long-suffering T.C.S. They won that game 20-13 but lost to St. Andrew's 18-50, to U.C.C. 1-16 and to the Old Boys 5-16.

Their football adversity still went on to throw the Old Boys into despair. Some of them were sending querulous questions from far places. For 1910, R. C. Barnum was football captain for the second year. He had six old colours as a base, but Ridley suffered that ultimate football humiliation once more. They had a goose-egg year – three losses, as each of their rival schools defeated them in turn, with a fourth loss to the Old Boys, just to show there was no sugar-coating of any kind on their bitter pill.

But the Old Boys were rallying around. A total of thirty-five Old Boys came over to Ridley on the day of the match and stayed for the week-end. Some of Ridley's football greats were among them – Socker Kingstone, Alex and Sky Snively, Mock McGiverin, Murray Kennedy, Alf Trimmer, Wes Lumbers and a lot more. Before they left on Sunday night they had dispelled defeatism in a great revival of Ridley spirit. It began to work; in two years, Ridley would completely reverse 1910 and defeat them all.

The Little Big Four was now unanimously in favour of the Burnside football rules and the more open game, but the Intercollegiate League had still not formally made the change. But the schools had rearranged wing lines (1907) with the players one yard apart. The Intercollegiate had at least adopted the ten-yard rule for three downs and had eliminated the old throw-in from touch, a rugger hangover. Ridley's Football Committee formally declared the chief trouble with the present game was not the rules, but the way they were interpreted: "It is the officiating system which gives the opportunity for rough play."

In any event, football as now played by Ridley was a far cry from English

rugger from which it had sprung, if it was also still far from today's football. The new game was strictly Canadian; if the American game was matching the Canadian changes in many respects, Canadian football did not take its lead from the U.S. (*Note: The Quebec Football Union adopted the new rules outright in 1906; the O.R.F.U. then followed in 1907, with the Interprovincial Union; the Intercollegiate League never adopted the rules in toto but they had incorporated most of them by 1906, and the difference was slight.*)

THE FIRST CANADIAN TO FLY

IN THE spring of 1908 a famous Old Boy made electrifying news. Casey Baldwin created world headlines. The news broke in the *Toronto Star*, March 13, 1908:

"The famous Varsity football player, Casey Baldwin, is now figuring in a new role. Yesterday, at Hammondsport, N.Y., Casey, who is the engineer in charge of construction, appointed by the Aerial Experiment Association, sailed Professor (Alexander Graham) Bell's new aerodrome (*sic*) the *Redwing*, over Lake Keuka, a distance of 319 feet, at the rate of from 25 to 30 miles per hour.

"This is declared to be the first successful public flight of a heavier-than-air machine in America."

It was also the first flight by a Canadian and by a British subject. This was the observed, public flight which transformed flying from a mystery to a practical reality in the public mind, something the Wrights' flight, staged in virtual secrecy at Kittyhawk, had failed to do.

The following year, Casey came to St. Catharines to speak to the Canadian Club, an address which was so modest his own great contribution to aviation was all but lost. He gave away too much of the credit.

Casey visited Ridley that afternoon, to be royally welcomed by awestruck boys; if their imaginations did not give this Old Boy a halo they had wings sprouting from his shoulders.

Ridley would produce many illustrious Canadians in the years ahead, but because Frederick Walker Baldwin not only won an extraordinary degree of athletic fame as a Ridley boy but also went on to gain international renown for his valuable contributions to experimental aviation in the very early days of flight, a brief account of his post-Ridley life may be justified. Further, the fact that it was an Old Ridleian who was the first Canadian and British subject to fly is becoming lost.

Casey, grandson of the Hon. Robert Baldwin (of the Baldwin-Lafontaine ministry which did much to bring responsible government to Upper Canada)

became interested in experimental aviation while flight by man was still considered an impractical vision, a myth, by our engineering schools. Casey had "shocked" the Dean of Engineering of the U. of T. by proposing to write his graduating thesis on aeronautics. During the summer of 1906 he had visited Dr. Alexander Graham Bell in company with J. A. D. McCurdy, whose father was Dr. Bell's secretary, at Baddeck, Nova Scotia. The inventor of the telephone was studying kites to discover their most effective lifting surfaces. Such a deep mutual attraction resulted between Dr. Bell and Baldwin, the young engineer, that Catharine Mackenzie, Dr. Bell's biographer, termed it "the closest and happiest association of Bell's life".

As for Casey, he was first of all fascinated by an invitation to assist Bell with the construction end of his tetrahedral experiments, and then by the growing conviction that an engine-driven craft could be built to fly. He ended by virtually adopting both the Bell family and Nova Scotia as his own, and the Bells all but adopted him. When the great inventor died in 1922, Casey was still his close confidant and co-worker.

The Aerial Experimental Association formed by Bell, Baldwin and McCurdy at Baddeck, N.S., was to be world-famous within a year. The group which would put a flying machine into the air with remarkable speed was international. Baldwin, who was chief engineer and McCurdy, treasurer and assistant engineer, were both Canadians. Glen H. Curtiss joined the group as engine expert; he was the outstanding American authority on light, gasoline-driven engines. Another American joined when the U.S. Government got wind of the experimenters and suggested an official observer. He was Lt. Thomas Selfridge, U.S. Army, who was appointed secretary. Bell himself had been born in Scotland, and though he had lived at Brantford, Ontario, and had a summer home on beautiful Bras d'Or Lake opposite Baddeck in Cape Breton, he was an American by naturalization.

It was actually on March 12, 1908 (not the 13th) that the world was electrified by headlines announcing that the first observed, public flight of a heavier-than-air flying machine had been made in the Western Hemisphere from the ice of a lake near Hammondsport, New York. It was called the *Redwing*. At the controls was Chief Engineer F. W. Baldwin, a young Canadian engineer.

He flew 319 feet, then made a smooth landing.

It is very evident that Casey Baldwin was the main force in the construction work, and that he also contributed to flight many valuable structural and theoretical ideas. The Wrights, Blériot and Henri Farman had tried to obtain balance in the air by warping their wings. Casey Baldwin found the answer after he crashed the *Redwing* in a second flight. It proved to him that an aircraft must have lateral control in the air or such crashes would be inevitable. The result was the invention of the aileron, or "little wings" as Henri Farman

christened the device when Casey demonstrated his wing-tip idea. That this invention was considered primarily Baldwin's by the members of the Aerial Experimental Association seems clear in their insistence that the patents should be in his name alone. This invaluable contribution to flight made by Casey was described by Dr. Bell's biographer: "These wing tips or ailerons of Baldwin's design have been fundamental to all balancing control ever since and are used in all modern heavier-than-air machines."

The group proved the value of the aileron within a few weeks. Their second craft, the *Whitewing*, was equipped with them. Casey flew it from Hammondsport racetrack on May 18; it was easier and safer to handle. Selfridge then flew it; so did Curtiss next day, but McCurdy crashed the *Whitewing* when it was his turn. That autumn, the *Silver Dart* was built, which incorporated all the improvements suggested by their *Redwing* and *Whitewing* experiments. Its first flights were at Hammondsport, but Dr. Bell wanted a flight in Canada and then moved the *Silver Dart* to Baddeck, N.S.

It was McCurdy who must be credited with making the historic first flight by a heavier-than-air machine in Canada, on February 23, 1909.

As the *Roundel* (R.C.A.F. journal) has since recorded, Baldwin also made pronounced contributions to the study of the hydrofoil. He created the celebrated flying boat, the HD-4, in 1918, which held the world's speed record of 70.86 m.p.h. for many years. He was again far ahead of his time, but the recent successful adaptation of hydrofoil craft in Europe bears eloquent testimony to the value of his recommendations of many years before.

Casey Baldwin ultimately represented his home area in Nova Scotia's legislature. He did much to establish Cape Breton National Park and to create the famous Cabot Trail. Many evidences of his work are in the Alexander Graham Bell Museum at Baddeck.

At Ridley, the inspiration he bequeathed can still be felt.

BECAUSE of the boys' interest in outdoor sports, and the adventuring spirit which the earlier Ridley fostered and even bred, it was natural that from the first graduation day young Riddleians had been found each summer in Ontario's vast northern woods. Pussy Wadsworth ('90), a wonderful hand with a canoe paddle, had been travelling unmapped water routes in Temagami as early as 1896. Each year more and more students had then headed north to spend their summer holidays in the woods, often in virtually virgin country or staying in remote camps. They were following the Canadian outdoor heritage. The countryside around St. Catharines was becoming built-up now, and only a highly imaginative boy could have much fun "exploring" the Welland Canal, but it had still been a mildly interesting area in the early Nineties, when muskrat-trapping was a regular winter hobby. Ridley now

had to go far afield to get close to nature, and the boys were going north in greater and greater numbers.

In 1905 Camp Tenagonic at Deer Park, deep in the great forest reserve, ran a full-page advertisement in *Acta Ridleiana*, and the editors might have filled the journal with nothing else but tales of summer adventuring by canoe and portage by Ridley boys.

In '07 three canoe loads of Ridleians had gone up the north arm of Lake Tenagonic, through a chain of lakes with many a tough portage, then down the Montreal River to Latchford. Then back by another route. They learned to like the mournful cry of the loon; how to enjoy pork and beans, fish and blueberries for breakfast, and not to despise hard-tack and cheese. They saw moose, deer, otter, bear and beaver, and learned the trick of carrying a canoe over rugged portages, one of them a brute of two rough miles. Unhappily, the adventurers are not identified, not even in the photos of the happy canoe loads of Ridley boys. We do not know who took the great picture of moose swimming in Red Squirrel Lake. In these days *Acta* often seemed to prefer anonymous contributions and not to identify writers, perhaps on the old premise that familiarity breeds lack of reader interest, unless a writer is a Julian Street. (His fine contributions were still coming regularly.) Many photographs of boys were reproduced without their identity.

Interest of parents as well as boys in holidays in the northern woods almost inevitably inspired a Ridley Camp. In the summer of 1908 three Old Boys – Doggie Mason, Schuyler Snively and J. P. Alexander – travelled by canoe from Chief's Island in Lake Joseph to Otter Lake, then returned to report to Dr. Miller who was staying with President Mason on Chief's Island. They were enamoured with the beauty of Otter Lake, five miles southeast of Parry Sound, easy of access but in fascinating "wild" country.

It was perhaps too easy of access, for civilization in the form of new roads closed in faster than was expected, but in 1908-9, Otter Lake looked ideal for Ridley's first summer camp. In case of illness, a Parry Sound doctor could be reached in thirty minutes by an old lumber road (soon a highway) within half a mile of the lake's northern arm. You could leave Toronto at 10 a.m. and be at Parry Sound at 2.30 by train. A dozen different canoe trips could be taken out of Otter Lake. It was decided at once that if ten boys indicated in January their desire to attend, the Camp would be set up for the summer of '09, with an efficient instructor in canoeing, swimming and outdoor living. The ten boys must have been secured quickly for a site on Otter Lake was purchased by the Headmaster in behalf of President Gooderham during that winter.

The Camp became a personal interest of Dr. Miller's. By 1910 he had built a huge stone fireplace with his own hands, but with Mrs. Miller, Nannette and Kitty enlisted to find good field stones. Boys helped, and carried a lot of

big rocks, too. A beautiful cottage was then constructed around the great fireplace, which many boys knew in the following summers.

That autumn of '08 there was still more evidence of the toll taken among Old Boys, while still young, by diseases which are now well controlled. A master visited the dormitory of a fourth-former, Laddie (Hamilton) Cassels, on a sad mission; he had to tell him he was wanted urgently at home in Toronto – and the whole school mourned to learn of the death of his older brother, Bob (R. B.) Cassels, from typhoid. He was just starting his second year at Varsity, after being a tower of strength at Ridley, both academically and on the playing field such a short time before. A brilliant student, he had been Head Boy in 1907, his final year, and an officer of Ridley's first uniformed Cadet Corps. He had captained the hockey team in both 1906 and 1907, had played inside-wing on Ridley's two championship football teams in 1905 and 1906. In his last two years he had also been one of Ridley's strongest cricketers. He was only eighteen, with his life before him, when he went with the Varsity football team to play against Queen's. He seemed unwell after the game, and typhoid developed, no doubt caught earlier. He died soon after.

The unhappy task of carrying the tragic news to his brother, Laddie, at Ridley, who was shocked as only a young boy can be who worships his older and only brother, fell to Robert's football coach, the former Ridley boy and master, Harry Griffith. It was November 8th, which meant he was in the midst of a busy football season in Toronto, his second as Varsity's coach, but he hurried over to St. Catharines and brought Laddie home. It was a thoughtful kindness that was never forgotten.

Young Laddie Cassels quickly disclosed he would follow in his brother's athletic steps at Ridley. He won the Junior Championship in track and field in 1909 with ease; he left his competition nowhere by capturing the running high jump, the 100-yards, the quarter-mile and the cricket-ball throw, with a second and third in the jumps to boot. He would eventually be a captain of cadets, captain of football and hockey, a fair cricketer, and he would lead the School's footballers to a spectacular Little Big Four Championship, just now so desperately needed for Ridley's morale.

THIS was the pre-mass attack period in master and boy association at Ridley; an entire form had not declared all-out war on a distrusted and detested master, but there had been feuds and antagonisms which fell only a little short of such drastic tactics. In the endless master-boy conflict, the boys were meticulous about playing fair; they would hold their judgment of a new master in abeyance to let him disclose his true nature, when he would either win a reprieve or hang himself. One instance of what the boys had called the "stomp" had taken place; an entire class in Upper School rudely, gleefully

took to interrupting a master's dissertation by stamping their feet on the floor in unison. An explosive crash! It was planned, for that crash was done like a drill on a hidden signal. They did it for three days in a row. Then the red-faced young master, who was only hurt and dismayed on the first startling demonstration, reacted forcefully to their challenge, a fateful one for him. He suddenly took such swift, stern counter-measures that he won their respect and survived. Just what the rebellion was about is forgotten, but it is remembered that after that demonstration of the stomp the master never had trouble with control again.

Private feuds between a master and a boy were an old story, of course, and harrying masters had been developed to a fine art long ago by imaginative and mischievous boys. There were some masters who were firm, but so just and fair they never had to raise their voices; they invariably understood boys, and liked them despite their unpredictable ways. The boys could sense it. The classes of others seemed to breed antagonisms, with clash following clash and uproar following uproar. A class could be converted into bedlam. It was a matter of strength of personality, mannerism and personal method of maintaining discipline.

In the way Ridley was now developing, many of the Upper School boys were coming up from the Lower School where the strap had been a strong deterrent and where Ridley's pattern of behaviour was firmly established. The senior forms were generally orderly and well disciplined, with the strap applied rarely, but when trouble did creep among the seniors it could be serious. All masters had the strap for a persuader, but in the senior forms a strap-master was in for trouble. He would be wise to maintain control by other means. He would also be wise not to send too many boys to the Headmaster's office for a caning. The strap was highly effective among the small boys but not with the seniors. A master in the Fifth gave a boy 500 lines one day, and was astonished to hear him stand up and plead:

"Will you strap it off, sir?"

A disliked or boring master could find himself in perpetual trouble. If he was both a dull teacher and also disliked he was probably doomed at Ridley, though sneakiness and lack of straightforward honesty in his dealings with the boys would condemn him even more quickly. He could start praying for the end of the term when he could depart forever. As yet, Ridley had experienced few of such misfits. They would appear (briefly) later.

There was a Latin master a little later who probably wondered for years (with smouldering ire and resentment no doubt, for he held grudges) about the identity of the boy who all but wrecked his Latin classes by suddenly and repeatedly ejaculating in a loud voice: "Oh, bullfrog!" The master, behind his Latin text, would be well into his declensions, and that voice would blurt: "*Bullfrog.*" Each time that he seemed to have his Latin class

listening intently, a loud "*Bullfrog*" would shatter his illusion. He tried everything, accused everyone, raced to the back of the room, foaming and livid, pleading for an informer to tell him the culprit's name, threatening horrendous reprisal. But the boys knew the disrupter was justified; their faces were innocent and blank; the name of the culprit who kept saying "*Bullfrog*" couldn't be dragged out of them under threat of a thousand hours. (*Post-script*: Now it can be told – 50 years on – it was the boy who was staring hard at the raging master: Laddie Cassels. He was not asked to confirm this; the name of the historian's informant is held in confidence, as his was at the time.)

THE NEW OLD BOYS' GYMNASIUM

THE year 1910 opened for Ridley with great prospects of all that a new gymnasium would add to school life. The blunt-faced, purely functional new building was nearly ready by the time the boys returned from Christmas holidays. Even if it had its lacks, the change it was to make in the pattern of the School's activities was very marked. It would be a particularly valuable Ridley asset in winter.

They were into it long before the formal opening day and were pleased with the cement swimming tank (until they discovered its water came from the cold bottom of the St. Catharines water system). Sergt. Williams had classes going in no time, with fencing revived, and regular instruction in boxing (voluntary) and gymnastics. Parallel and swinging bars and rings were in place. Ridley took over the gym's facilities with such enthusiasm the Headmaster was doubtful it could last, but he encouraged the suggestion of the boys themselves that their old Assault-at-Arms should be revived, with an exhibition offered to the public on the official opening day of the new Old Boys' gym.

It was well the gym was soon to be available; the weather was so mild in 1910 the hockey players did not even have practice ice until the end of January, yet Nicholls' Hall without ice was still too cold for basketball. In another year basketball could be organized on a new all-winter basis in the gym. The school hockey team, captained by Mousie (W. M.) Walbank, who was the rover, still played eleven games in a crowded schedule, winning six, with one tied. They had matches against de la Salle and Trinity colleges this year, but the Little Big Four schools were still not interested.

The hockey season was long over before the Assault-at-Arms could be staged, with the swimming pool permitting fancy diving and swimming races to be a feature for the first time. The gymnasium gallery seated so few that the audience had to be accommodated on the main floor where barely enough room remained for the gymnastic display, especially when seats had to be



THIS GYMNASIUM

WAS PRESENTED TO

RIDLEY COLLEGE

BY OLD RIDLEIANS

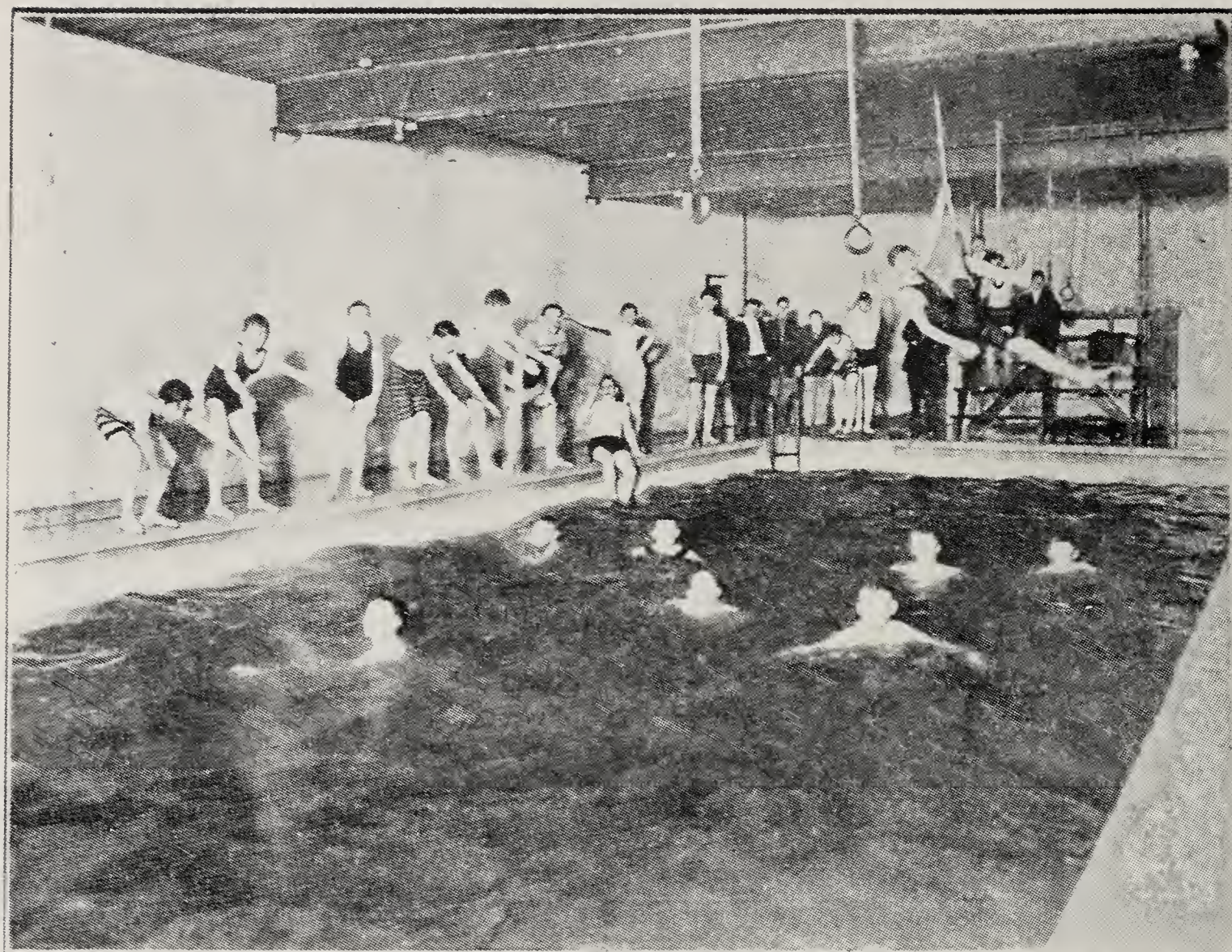
WHOSE NAMES FOLLOW

WITH THE GENEROUS AID OF WARM FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

OPENED APRIL 15TH 1910.

ALLAN A. A.	GOODERHAM E. D.	LEE C. E.	PFOHL R. P.
AUSTIN A. E.	GOODERHAM E. S.	LEE F. A.	
ANDERSON E. H.	GOODERHAM G. E.	LEE L. G.	RENDELL C. C.
	GOODERHAM H. D.	LEE R. C.	RICHARDSON P.
BALDWIN F. W.	GOODERHAM R. M.	LUMBERS N. W.	RIORDON C. C.
BENSON T. B. F.	GOODERHAM W. H.		RISELAY E. G.
BLAKE H. H.	GOODERHAM D. M.	MACDONALD A. N.	
BOYD V. E.	GOODERHAM H. S.	MACDONALD C. S.	SALWAY J. L.
BROWN R. D.	GORDON W. L. L.	MACKENZIE A. W. (ob)	SHOENBERGER W. H.
	GOULDING A. M.	MACKENZIE G. A. G.	SCLATER A. N.
CARLEY A. B.	GREENING H. B.	MacLEOD R. M.	SCLATER C. H.
CARTER H. J.	GREENING W. S.	MASON D. H. C.	SNIVELY A. C.
CARTER W. E. H.	GRIFFITH D. F.	MATTHEWS W. L.	SNIVELY S. C.
CASSELS (Jr.) H.	GRIFFITH H. C.	MAXWELL R. E.	SOMERVILLE A. J.
CASSELS R. B. (ob)	GRIFFITH R. H. (ob)	McCUAIG C. N.	SPENCE F. R.
CHAMPION I. W.	GZOWSKI (Jr.) C. S.	MacDOUGAL L. T.	STAYNER D. S.
CHAPLIN C. G. (ob)		MacGIVERIN F. A.	STREET J. L.
CHRISTIE J. A.	HARCOURT R. M.	McNETT J. S.	
CHRISTIE W. L.	HARGRAFT J. R.	MERRITT T. R.	TAYLOR A. W.
CHRISTIE H. C.	HASTINGS (Jr.) A. C.	MILLICHAMP R. W.	TAYLOR H. T.
COOKE J. R. N.	HASTINGS O. B.	MITCHELL G. G.	TIDY P. C.
	HILLS A. J.	MITCHELL P. D.	TRETHEWEY F. L.
DALTON A. E.	HOOVER E. M.	MURPHY E. A.	TRETHEWEY W. D.
DARRELL H. F.	HOYLES H. L.	MURPHY R. K.	TRIMMER A. S.
DEWAR K. F.		MURPHY R.	TUCKETT G. J.
DYMENT H. M.	INGERSOLL J. H.		
DYMENT C. S.	IRVINE V. R.	NICHOLLS W.	VASSIE W.
		NORSWORTHY J. W.	
EHNI E. M.	JARVIS (Jr.) A. E.	NORSWORTHY S. C.	WADSWORTH W. R.
EVANS W. B.	JARVIS W. D. P.		WELLS J. E.
	JOHNSON P. R.	OGDEN A. U.	WILSON H. M.
FITZHUGH (Jr.) E. H. (ob)			WOODRUFF S. D.
FOWLER R. P.	KENNEDY H. G.	PELLATT M.	WOODRUFF W. A.
FOWLER S. K.	KENNEDY M. D.	PERRY F. M.	WOOLWORTH W. H.
	KINGSTONE A. C.	PORTER A. A.	WOOLWORTH C. M.
GATES A. F.		PORTER A. L.	WRONG E. M.
GLEN J. M.	LANGLEY C. A.	PFOHL E. P.	WRONG H. V.

The New Pool and the Rink



THE GYMNASIUM'S CEMENT POOL (1910)
The boys try Ridley's first indoor swimming pool.



BOXERS IN THE ROOFLESS RINK
Nicholl's Hall lost its roof in the "St. Catharines' Cyclone" of 1909.

found for the 19th Regiment Band. The main amphitheatre had looked enormous, but on opening day they reluctantly realized their wonderful new gymnasium was far too small.

The Assault-at-Arms was highly successful despite space limitations. Excellent boxing bouts were staged by Jones, Boyer I, Salway and Jarvis I and II, and a spectacular fencing display thrilled the spectators; it was between Sergt. Williams and Arthur Goulding, a Ridley Old Boy now at Varsity. The finale was an exhibition by two Varsity trapeze experts, Elliott and Keith, which the Ridley enthusiasts declared matched anything you could see by professional high-wire and trapeze men in a circus. It revealed what serious training on the overhead equipment could accomplish.

Despite all these fine exhibitions by experts it was still the boys of the Lower School who always gave an all-out try in everything they attempted, who won the warmest applause for their well-drilled bar-bell exercise.

The gymnasium had been the personal project of Ab Taylor ('89), who had built a mansion on the site of Springbank and who was now taking more and more interest in Ridley. He had been helping the Cadet Corps, was an enthusiast for all the sports and he had started the gym fund among the Old Boys. (A bronze plaque inside the entrance listed the names of the 121 Old Boys who had been the principal donors.) Mr. Taylor had tiny Kitty Miller turn the first sod on June 19, 1909, and had then utilized the ceremony to make a successful final appeal for funds.

Kitty's older sister Nan must have felt quite grown up when a gymnasium party was arranged in her honour. Criticism of social affairs at Ridley were shortly to be voiced by an editor of *Acta*, but there was no sign of it in this first purely social note ever to appear in the college journal:

"The coming-out dance of one of the very few of the gentler sex who can claim to be a Ridleian, took place in the College gymnasium on Friday, November 18th, and marked the *début* of Miss Nannette Miller. That the affair was a grand success goes without saying, and as it took place on the eve of the Old Boys football match, a large number of past Ridleians were present. . . . As we have no experience in reporting such brilliant functions, we must refer our readers to *Saturday Night*, in which a full description will be found of the beautiful gowns worn by the many charming maids and matrons . . ."

This memorable affair launched the gymnasium into its social role at Ridley; its hardwood floor was an invitation to dancing, and the gallery was a perfect adjunct for chaperones or for sitting-out dances, with two offices off the gallery used as ladies' dressing rooms. Someone suggested draining the swimming pool, and decorating it. The result was a cosy sitting-out place which was utilized for years.

The Ridley Cadet Corps' first Annual Dance followed in February, with

Canadian Ensigns, Union Jacks and the flags of other nations providing the theme for the colourful *décor*. It was a gala affair, easily the outstanding social function Ridley had ever staged. Unquestionably, the Cadets' dance would become a regular feature of each Ridley winter and the most notable annual social affair the School would hold.

Dancing had definitely arrived at Ridley. Immediately after the affair, at which the smartly uniformed cadets had been the envy of all the "civilians", Professor Hacket opened a series of dancing classes for the seniors. He was swamped with customers. So many young Ridleians wanted to learn to dance the professor had to import a number of St. Catharines' young ladies to help out, which the Ridley boys considered a wonderful idea.

Another piece of evidence to say that dancing had arrived – to stay – was that *Acta's* editorial policy changed between issues from criticism of dancing as a Ridley activity to one of applause. The critics had created such an uproar, they hastily back-tracked. Ridley had always possessed a core of hard-shell disciples of masculinity, quick to deplore the slightest sign of encroachment by social (feminine) functions such as dancing, especially dancing. They still grumbled because ladies were admitted to the dinners when the Old Boys visited the College, a night that was always memorable, females or no females. But except for this, and the attendance of ladies on Sports Day and at the cricket garden parties, there had been little reason to fear serious female intrusion upon the all-male Ridley scene. They did not say a woman's place was in the kitchen, but the way the presence of ladies was frowned upon clearly indicated they considered all women should remain somewhere in that vicinity.

However, with the School's new maturity a trend toward a few more social affairs was probably overdue, if only to ensure that proper drawing-room manners would be one mark of a Ridley graduate. The critics disagreed with assumed, real or tongue-in-cheek consternation, and also something akin to opinionated bachelorhood. An anonymous editorial blasted social events at Ridley. The proponents of an anti-feminine, non-social Ridley had a disciple on the editorial staff in 1910. With a thinly disguised finger pointing at social Ridley, the unknown enemy of dancing editorially attacked the questionable habit of allowing social events to interfere with secondary school education. He supported this contention with a reprint of an American educator's speech in which social affairs in the high schools of the United States were acidly castigated.

It is said that some indignant young ladies of Ridley families, some tartly expostulating staff wives and a lot of outraged young ladies of St. Catharines, were intensely curious to discover the identity of the writer of the anonymous attack. Mr. Powell, the happily married chairman of the editorial committee who was absolved, kept mum; he had discarded the title editor-in-chief,

inherited from Mr. Griffith, in order to give his student co-editors more independence and responsibility. Which one was the woman-hater? Who was this scorner of dancing? The culprit was not discovered, perhaps because the staff was changing, but he must have been among the group of co-editors now leaving: Arthur (A. L.) Bishop, R. C. Barnum, N. H. Daniel, Mickey (V. R.) Irvine and R. E. Ussher (the pen and ink artist), or one of the incoming group, which included Hamilton Cassels, P. C. Tidy, G. S. Hamilton, and W. H. Shoenberger. The latter were absolved of suspicion because *Acta* was soon speaking nicely about Professor Hackett's dancing class. The secret is still kept. No Old Boy admits he was the editor with the phobia about females. He had been either squelched or had graduated by the end of 1911. (*Post-script*: In 1914, when a dancing exhibition by Sixth Formers was on the programme of the Assault-at-Arms, *Acta* actually applauded: "The Sixth in a dance drill showed that the boys could be quite as graceful as the girls, and in the variety of the steps performed rivalled the much-talked of tango.") This display of terpsichorean skill was never repeated or at least was not again publicly reported.

The debate on Ridley's social innovations had been in full progress in 1910 when Dr. Miller approached Ab Taylor about becoming a member of the Board of Directors. This had nothing whatever to do with Ab's views on a raised or lowered barrier against social affairs and the ladies, though the blunt-tongued Old Boy would probably have declared himself on the all-male side had he been asked; at least, his increasing interest in Ridley was in the physical fitness of the boys and such things as the marksmanship of the cadets. The Headmaster felt Mr. Taylor could be very valuable on the Board because he not only knew Ridley well, he lived in St. Catharines, and college affairs had recently become more and more the responsibility of the local committee.

Like a surprisingly large number of Old Boys, his respect and personal liking for Dr. Miller had grown steadily with the years. He could now see the School and the Headmaster's work in the favourable perspective of a little time and distance and because of his admiration for Dr. Miller, the two men had grown quite close.

At this moment, Mr. Taylor was president of the Old Boys' Association, and Dr. Miller became very persuasive just before their annual dinner in Toronto in early December. He hoped he would accept an appointment as the third Old Boy representative on the Board. There were still only two: Courtney Kingstone and H. C. Griffith.

Mr. Taylor demurred. He realized how much he had come to admire Dr. Miller and to enjoy their friendly association. He did not want to expose it to the risk of dissension.

"There could be situations in which you and I might not agree," he said, "and I do not want to be in a position where I could contradict you."

"I can take all the contradictions you can offer," urged the Headmaster. "You can be of great help to Ridley."

Mr. Taylor reluctantly agreed while en route to Toronto with Dr. Miller, and that night the Old Boys nominated him as one of their representatives on the Board. The enjoyable dinner was held in the Albany Club, with a record turn-out in honour of Dr. Miller and Ridley's twenty-first birthday year. Professor George M. Wrong, the guest speaker, and Mr. George H. Gooderham both paid a warm tribute to the Headmaster who spoke on, "My twenty-one years at Ridley."

The Old Boys' annual dinner always combined nostalgia with a mild carnival spirit, and this time the reminiscences went all the way back to 1888, when Ridley was only a school on paper. Lantern slides of forgotten scenes helped conjure old memories.

It was also in 1910 that the Board first considered a plan to change Ridley College to a corporation without share capital with any profit used for the work of the School. Nothing was done to make this basic alteration in the College Constitution and Charter; it was discussed for years before the change was actually achieved (in 1924). The Board made one firm decision in 1910, however; they raised the fees to \$400 per annum for the coming year 1911-12. (At this time the fees for Upper and Lower Schools were the same.)

A specific "School Management Committee" was appointed in 1912, but in 1910 a small St. Catharines committee was still making most decisions; it carried out all transactions for Ridley. Even after the Management Committee was formed and given power to act, only some of its members were active. They included: Mr. Ingersoll, Dr. Miller, Dr. W. H. Merritt, Archdeacon Perry, H. J. Taylor, A. W. (Ab) Taylor, and H. C. Griffith. As Mr. Taylor recalled college operations: "From 1911 to 1920, the St. Catharines Committee was generally comprised only of Mr. Ingersoll, the Headmaster and myself. We virtually operated the School. The Board met very seldom, not oftener than once a year, and then dealt with all policy matters and confirmed all our actions during a single session." (*Note: During the seven-year period, 1914-21, the full Board met five times. From 1912 to 1918 all shareholders' meetings were held in St. Catharines. The third set of minutes, kept by the local committee, contained the details of school operations.*)

"After 1920 there was a change," said Mr. Taylor. "The full Board of Directors began to meet monthly and to take a great and active part in Ridley's operations."

Mr. Taylor took his post seriously; he appointed himself watchman over the quality of food served at Ridley for one thing. He would have cuts of meat and quantities of other foods sent to his home and charged to him, testing for quality at his own table. He did this with bacon, beef and mutton, especially, but also with any new breakfast food or canned or preserved meats or other

foods. For years corned beef and cabbage was the great favourite at Ridley.

Why? "Because boys are always hungry and they were given such huge helpings of corned beef and cabbage, I expect," said Mr. Taylor. "They could go back for 'seconds', too, just as they can today."

Mr. Taylor recalled the astonishing amount of corned beef each student was consuming. He had worked it out. "They were getting $1\frac{1}{4}$ pounds each whenever it was served," he said, "and they always cleaned up the last slice."

But because healthy, active boys are always hungry, it is difficult to find an Old Boy who remembers helpings as being somewhat substantial for a youngster; instead, recollections are of chronic hunger-pangs between meals and at night. What schoolboy can really appreciate the wisdom of a regulation against food in the dormitories? It was a rule certain to be broken in any way he could contrive.

A DISCUSSION ON FAGGING

By this period in Ridley's way of life, the original fear of earlier years had been dispelled that fagging was bound to hold some of the indignities and cruelties of Eton and other English schools before the sweeping reformation in the early years of the previous century. It had been realized for some years at Ridley that fagging of the right kind could have real value in teaching juniors a respectful attitude, and how to obey without subservience, and at the same time would impress on seniors the responsibilities, obligations, courtesy and decency which must go with the privilege of authority.

Just now the unwritten law was being impressed and would be until it reached the point of general acceptance, that a Sixth-Form boy has no right to expect special deference or civility from a Fifth Former, and that this principle must hold on down through the forms. Courtesy and human decency must rule relations between all forms.

Where fagging is countenanced, this ideal is easier to state than to have followed, because there is a spot in a boy's development when he is neither boy nor adult in his viewpoint. Mr. Powell meant this when he wrote in *Acta*: "Fifth Form boys are not usually capable of using power over the lower forms judiciously."

It was here, of course, that trouble could arise, and probably always will. The Fifth Formers are seldom mature enough not to overdo the privilege of having fagging done for them. To take care of it completely, perhaps the first solution to come to mind is to make fagging of any type illegal. Ridley did not think so, neither the Headmaster nor the seniors who had been juniors and who knew fagging at both ends. Instead, the Fifth Formers were shortly given a special category; they became neutrals who could neither be fagged nor have

a fag. It was a wise waiting period in which the Fifth Formers could observe the good judgment and sense of responsibility of the Sixth.

Ridley's system of boy-control had the prefect body securely established at the top, with their value and contributions to school life so pronounced that they were obviously there to stay. Their good sense in giving detentions to obstreperous and unruly boys was taking more and more pressure off the masters, with the whole pattern of school behaviour and conduct vastly improved. They also had been given more and more responsibility as time moved along, and more and more was now expected of them. They were the guard over the fagging process, only now beginning to be called slobbing. (*Postscript*: Just when fagging became slobbing at Ridley is vague. Slobbing was not a master's term, and fagging was; it was some years before most of the masters adopted the boys' term. No one can now remember how slobbing originated except to suggest that it probably came from that reprehensible type of fellow whom the boys could call a slob.)

Dr. Miller and his masters always realized how easily such a custom as fagging can be abused, and the Headmaster's personal watchfulness never relaxed, but it was condoned because he believed in putting boys to the test. To him controlled fagging held valuable elements to aid character-building.

That a junior could not be asked to do anything which would break a Ridley rule, written or unwritten, was, of course, fully understood. A good guard against abuse was the firm, if unwritten law which decreed that no boy could discipline another except through those in authority, the prefects. This stopped bullying under the guise of punishment. The prefects were always alert to stamp it out. It was a poor prefect who failed to detect an element of personal spite when a Fifth or Sixth Former wanted a Fourth or Third Form boy put in his place.

The only type of fagging which was now custom at Ridley was the carrying out of small duties, which were not demeaning and which were so generally accepted they had become a school tradition. It was openly done.

There is not an Old Ridleian who has not formed an opinion on fagging, based of course on his personal experience. If he moved from Lower to Upper School he resented it at first, but it is difficult to find outright condemnation of it except by Old Boys who in their day had run afoul of a senior who abused the privilege of fagging. This occurred from time to time, generally because a successful senior scholar had failed to mature with his years.

Another extremely valuable development was now about to take place, which would permanently bolster the role of the prefects, and Ridley's system of boy-control generally. Such a definite improvement was achieved in the attitude of the boys toward the cadets and the parade-square that the Cadet Corps could soon join the prefects in wielding a marked influence on conduct. The officer-leaders since 1907 had done a grand job in achieving the changed

viewpoint, and now it could be consolidated by the officers and N.C.Os. who followed them. Tom (T. W.) Lee was captain of cadets in 1910; he was a respected boy, and he had a Corps which already disclosed fine *esprit de corps*. Then came Bill (W. D. P.) Jarvis in 1911, a boy with a natural gift for leadership and great prestige among the boys of both schools. The cadet captains who followed him – Ferdie (F. H.) Marani, Laddie (H.) Cassels and Geoff (G. R.) Marani – all generously say it was Tom Lee and Bill Jarvis who together had solidified the transformation in the respect of the School for Ridley's voluntary Cadet Corps. If so, Ferdie Marani, Laddie Cassels and Geoff Marani each sealed it and raised the status of the cadets still higher. Long before 1914 membership in the Cadet Corps had become a coveted thing. No Ridley boy would now dare to jeer at a cadet or his uniform.

As it happened, most though not all of the period's cadet captains had come up through the Lower School and thus knew as much about being fags as they did about having fagging done for them. In any event, fagging was now a distinct phase of Ridley life and had been adopted to stay. Its value or otherwise was dependent on just one element: the stature of the prefects, especially in judgment and leadership qualities. The Headmaster who had come to realize long ago that the future of Ridley College rested on the attitude of its students and graduates, had been disclosing for years that he also knew the success of Ridley's influences on its boys depended in an unusual degree on the quality of the seniors he chose as prefects.

Once the choice was made he gave them his full trust and confidence, as a wise means to instill sense of responsibility. He never ceased to coach them in the balanced judgment and obligations which are inherent in good leadership and he was seldom disappointed. Dr. Miller was a discerning judge of either men or boys, and this ability was never more important than in his choice of his boy-population's leaders: the prefects.

“All the Trumpets Sounded Triumph”

“These were crowded, successful and altogether inspiring years, and their flavour should not be diluted by the knowledge that war was waiting in their path.”

IN WRITING of the peaceful, yet often exciting college years which remained to Ridley before the Kaiser's War shattered the familiar pattern of life for most of the world's peoples, it is difficult for the historian to forget that many young Riddleians were unknowingly living on borrowed time. This is always so when writing (or reading) of the past; a known momentous occurrence waiting up ahead for the narrative to reach it can obscure the importance of things as they were. This danger should now be remembered, for great and exhilarating things happened to Ridley and the Riddleians in the years between 1911 and 1914. They could not see the spectre of war looming ahead, and even if it were vaguely sensed, it should not overshadow such things as the pride of the Cadets at the C.N.E.; the historic football come-back staged by Ridley in 1912; the excitement of Manley's century against an experienced cricket club, and the arrival of Ridley elevens on such a cricket peak that they were Little Big Four champions in no less than three of the four years, an unheard-of feat. Also, to keep pace scholastically, Ridley had record-sized Sixth Forms and a record number of matriculants.

These were crowded, successful and altogether inspiring years, and their flavour should not be diluted by the knowledge that war was waiting in their path. Ridley beat no drums, but it was as if all her trumpets sounded triumph at the same time – hailing her brilliant scholars, her victorious boys on her green game fields, and the soaring surge of her school spirit. These were great Ridley years.

In 1911, Ridley was a happy, prospering college, coming to a peak of success in all phases of her life, the justified progress of a school whose policies had always been sound, which was passing her twenty-first age-stone of adulthood, and going on to her first quarter-century. Both her academic and athletic programmes had developed together, each to a pronounced maturity, with the

unmistakable mark of experience now beginning to show in all her endeavours. There was no change in concentration on individual and team sport; there was increased interest and excitement because of successive triumphs, but the wise, traditional Ridley balance between her scholastic and athletic activities was being faithfully followed by a watchful headmaster who had set that policy at Ridley's birth. She had been steadily winning the respect of the universities for her academic standards, and now the number of Ridley's successful university matriculants rose as noticeably as her ascendancy in sport.

Oddly, in these pre-war days there was not only an unusually large Sixth Form, but so many of them were determined to enter the Royal Military College that a special R.M.C. class had to be instituted in 1912. Why was this? Was war casting its shadow before it? Why was the Royal Military College so crowded some aspirants had to be refused admittance? There is no explanation. No persuasion was used on the Ridley boys who chose R.M.C.

Ridley had come into her own athletically as the natural consequence of experience and training over many years. The fortunate arrival and development of outstanding natural athletes helped, of course, but principally this four-year era (1911-14) of striking success in sport came from the maturing state of the athletic programme, including improvement in training methods and, not the least, from the accumulated inspiration and example of great players and great teams. The change was now so marked that had the war not intervened, her major team sports – cricket and rugby – were probably destined to know a long stretch of consistent success. They did so to a wonderful degree in any event, especially in cricket.

To what extent was Ridley's new athletic status due to her greats of the past? Old Boys are wont to claim a current winning cricket or rugby team could never match those of their day; even in 1910, *Acta Ridleiana* had propounded: “Despite Ridley's new gymnasium and modernity it is doubtful whether the athletes of today with all their luxury of equipment are better than many turned out by the school in her years of struggle.” It is quite likely that spiked shoes for the sprinters and cleats for rugby boots would have made them mightier still, but the improved equipment would have also strikingly changed the opposition. There could well have been other greats; who knows? To compare today with yesterday in sport is a ceaseless but always fruitless pastime, with the evidence for such a *post-mortem* meaningless; the conditions and competition will not exactly compare for any two eras.

Yet it is true that the athletic greats of Ridley's immediate past paved the way to her new ascendancy in sport. Before the next – and the next – group of great colour men obliterate them, they should be recalled. Many will be overlooked, but here are some of the boys who helped consolidate the Ridley athletic tradition: the rugged, skilful Courtney Kingstone ('90), football and

cricket; Casey Baldwin ('93), a famous man in every game, and perhaps the most spectacular of them all; Alex Mackenzie ('93), a legendary cricket great, who scored Ridley's first century; W. C. J. Doolittle ('94), the football captain and cricketer; M. H. Gander ('96), a giant in track-and-field; Alec Snively ('97), fencing champion, footballer and cricketer. The outstanding athletes since the fire are also worthy of special remembrance, such as Murray Kennedy ('97), football and hockey captain; N. C. Nicholls, a great runner; R. M. Harcourt ('00), cricket, football, track-and-field; Joey (R. C.) Lee ('00), star cricketer and captain of mighty football champions; and Bob (R. B.) Cassels, hockey captain and a great footballer; Alison Maxwell, captain of both football and cricket; R. C. Barnum, football captain in both '09 and '10; Mousie (W. M.) Walbank, hockey captain and cross-country champion. (*Note: Entrance year of boys indicated.*)

Now to emerge as the immediate pre-war athletic greats were Tide (P. C.) Tidy and Archie Mix, cricket captains of championship teams, and both great hockey players, too: J. F. Manley, hockey, track-and-field, and a spectacular cricket batsman; and Laddie Cassels, who was hockey captain, a fine fielder on championship cricket elevens, a good track and field man, and who now captained the football team to a Little Big Four championship, in an historic Ridley come-back. Mill Jarvis, Bill (A. St. C.) Gordon, Dow-dow (S. P.) Trench, Crau (C. K. C.) Martin, Mickey (V. R.) Irvine, Chet (C. N.) Woolworth and Windy (C. E.) Miller were other great Ridley athletes of the immediate pre-war era.

Coming behind them in 1914 was a Canadian athlete in Lower School, Sandy Somerville, who was to make cricket, football and hockey history at Ridley before he went on to world fame in golf.

To the annual disgust of Ridley's hockey committee, to the players and a host of supporters, their favourite winter sport still remained relegated to a secondary role as far as inter-school status was concerned. The one guerdon to mark their hockey greatness in any season was always denied them; it was impossible to win a championship of the Little Big Four because it seemed impossible to obtain agreement between the four preparatory schools that a three-game championship schedule in the late winter was wise. When one school decided the interruption to winter study was worth it, others would be in opposition, including Ridley at times which nevertheless always had a strong faction in favour. Ridley had still only played a single hockey game against Upper Canada. They had never played St. Andrew's or Trinity College School.

Some Ridleians were cricket enthusiasts first of all; others favoured football or the field sports, but the Ridley master or boy who did not at least skate was rare. To win your hockey colours was a proud thing, and the hockey captain was always considered (at least in the hockey season) to be as big a man on the Ridley campus as the football and cricket captains, who had the mythical

Little Big Four crowns to enhance their repute. Hockey would remain important even without inter-school games, for Ridley not only iced some great hockey teams, but in these years hockey came into its own in Canada. Lacrosse was beginning to fade a little (except in a few hot-beds of lacrosse fanatics) and was gradually losing its claim to hockey as Canada's National Game. Its roughness was against it, while hundreds of small Canadian boys were now playing shinny on creeks, ponds and backyard rinks in every village and hamlet in the country. Hockey heroes were rising; boys of Ridley tried to imitate the skating style or stick-handling wizardry of Joe Malone or Joe Hall of the world champion Quebec Bulldogs, or of the legendary Cyclone Taylor "who could skate backwards and still score". (*Postscript*: Cyclone was such a hero that Ridley's hockey enthusiasts refused to believe the howls of Ottawa's sports writers who said he was abandoning the amateur Ottawas for \$4,000, offered by the amateur Renfrews for a ten-week schedule.)

As a result of this rise in hockey, Ridley's teams were finding much better, and also more diversified competition in the Niagara Peninsula. In the four years between 1911 and 1914 they played such teams as the *Shamrocks* of Niagara Falls, the *Thorold Rovers*, the Collegiates of both St. Catharines and Niagara Falls; the Lafayette High School of Buffalo; the Y.M.C.A.s of St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Welland; the *Lyceums* of Niagara Falls; the *Bankers* of St. Catharines and, frequently, the Old Boys.

In 1911 the hockey players were skating before Christmas, with hockey captain Jep Carley and P. C. Tidy the old colours. With Mr. A. G. Hooper as coach in his last year at Ridley, they won seven, lost one and tied one, a fine record, which brought them the City of St. Catharines Championship. In 1912, Ridley produced a team which was probably strong enough to defeat teams in the junior commercial leagues of the big cities. They hit a tartar in a Buffalo team but won their other nine games in a crowded schedule in February and March.

Hockey was now at a peak of popularity with the boys, after two seasons of many victories. The great Ridley hockey team of 1912 was comprised of A. E. Mix, centre; T. Tucker, right wing; L. K. Cameron, left wing; A. St. C. Gordon, rover; H. Cassels, point (captain); C. Thistlethwaite, cover point; G. D. Clarke, goal, and H. P. Lancaster, spare.

Unhappily, their schedule was abbreviated in 1913, the scarlet-fever year, with the school quarantined. But they won all games it was possible to arrange, and in 1914 encountered the most rugged hockey and roughest play a Ridley team had yet experienced. They took on opponents who were older, stronger and actually above the Ridley grade. A team of engineers and workmen employed on the Welland Ship Canal taught the Ridley team some hard lessons in cross-checking, hip-tripping and elbowing, but discovered the boys from Ridley could body-check hard, if fairly, and could often outskate them.

Ridley lost, but by only one goal. A tough team of rubber workers from the Maple Leaf Rubber Co., Port Dalhousie, playing in the intermediate commercial league, were also "unorthodox" ice tacticians. Ridley defeated them in a rugged battle which left cuts and bruises as souvenirs for both sides.

The fighting hockey teams in the orange-and-black of Ridley in these years were given such well-earned acclaim that the new rival in winter sport – basketball – still had a difficult time gaining a foothold, although Ridley's new gymnasium was giving basketball its chance. It had been played intermittently and not too seriously in Nicholls' Hall, as a substitute for hockey when the weather was too mild to make ice. It had been just a game to fill in during the poor hockey winters. Another handicap for basketball had been the frigid rink; it was cold for spectators even in the mild seasons; the basketball players always had a slim audience. Both players and spectators had to love the game for its own sake under Nicholls' Hall conditions. Now the situation was changed; the basketball players had a fine floor surface, a proper court, and a gallery to accommodate supporters. With Sergt. J. Williams as coach, they found outside competition at once in 1910 and were thoroughly beaten. Ridley's first match that year – the first of their gym – was against their militia friends of the 19th Regiment in St. Catharines' Armouries; the militiamen downed them 16-10. The school team failed to win a single game in 1910, yet basketball had its start. By the time the winter of 1911 came around, the "knockers" were admitting that the sissy Y.M.C.A. game of basketball was perhaps not "something in the category of marbles" after all.

Their competition remained largely against Y.M.C.A. and collegiate teams of St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, but they soon discovered that the boys of the high schools and the Y-boys could be tough competitors. In 1911, the first year in which Ridley could accommodate visiting basketball teams, the first school team defeated collegiate teams from both towns; they won and lost to Y.M.C.A. *Meteors*; lost to Niagara Falls Y and a senior Y-team of St. Catharines; won and lost to Y.M.C.A. *Rangers*; and were beaten twice by De Veaux College. It was not a very good record, but Ridley's basketball players were learning the game fast. The 1911 team was composed of:

Forwards: C. E. Miller, centre (captain); C. N. Woolworth; W. H. Woolworth and Mill Jarvis.

Guards: G. S. Hamilton; S. P. Trench; W. L. Duffield; E. H. Ziegler, sub-guard.

Basketball was now developing so rapidly in Ontario that an inter-city provincial league was in operation and, in 1912, Ridley tested the St. Catharines city league entry. They were beaten 47-28, but the defeated Ridley players learned a lot about quick passing and felt they had not been disgraced. An unusually cold winter did not help them in 1912. The hard ice everywhere

gave a boost to hockey, and all the surrounding towns forsook basketball to some extent for that old favourite. But Ridley could arrange five outside games: they won two and were encouraged.

In 1913 mild January weather gave basketball a good start, but then came cold temperatures “and the plague” (scarlet fever). Some of Ridley’s most useful players were “banished to the pest house”. Despite this, a step forward for basketball was achieved by the formation of the Big Four City League, comprised of St. Catharines teams – the Collegiate, the Y-Cubs, the Y-intermediates and Ridley. It meant scheduled games in 1914 instead of “searching from the Falls to Hamilton Mountain for competition”. That Ridley would be respected opponents in the new league was revealed in 1913 when, despite “the plague”, they won three out of six games, defeating the Collegiate twice and vanquishing De Veaux College for the first time. In 1914 a new coach arrived – Mr. G. M. Brock – who would transform Ridley’s basketball in the 1920s, but he was only able to make a start when he became Capt. Brock, Canadian Army. But the great Olympic runner, holder of the Canadian record for the half-mile, would be back.

There was unlimited enthusiasm among the players in 1914 but (mourned the basketball reporter): “The weatherman was so kind to the lovers of hockey there was skating every day, with a falling off in attendance at the gymnasium.” It was an unhappy season; the entire city of Niagara Falls, N.Y., was under quarantine for scarlet fever, and only two outside games could be scheduled.

They were not only beset by this kind of misfortune; basketball’s struggle to entice a few supporters and players away from hockey was hampered by still another winter interest – a new one: amateur theatricals.

The combination of the new gymnasium and careful development of broader student interests at Ridley enabled the Headmaster to see a dramatic club find its beginnings in 1911. Its popularity was assured at once. In the years behind there had been tentative starts arising from not much more than someone’s suggestion, “Let’s dress up and have a play”. There had also been considerable interest at Ridley in the development of amateur theatricals in St. Catharines. Miss Carrie Mack was the instigator. Ridleians of the Nineties recall attending *A Night Off*, a splendid local production.

The first series of productions by a cast of Ridleians was largely through the efforts of two masters, Mr. C. E. Thomas and Mr. M. Brockwell. The first play was *Old Gooseberry*, staged in the gymnasium in 1913. The players were G. R. Marani, main role; J. F. Manley, T. R. Merritt, H. F. Sneed, and Mr. Thomas as *Norah Jackson*. Mr. Thomas was listed as general manager, but he was actually the accomplished director. Old Boys of the time who were trained by Mr. Thomas declare he was “a genius” in persuading a self-conscious boy to forget his adolescent male self and become a credible stage character.

He gave early training to several who did well years later on the stage or in careers in radio and television.

Inspired by the success of *Old Gooseberry*, the Dramatic Club presented a double bill the following term. The plays were titled *Box and Cox* and *Ici On Parle Français*. Wilf Heighington was *Cox*; A. R. Turnbull was *Box*; and E. B. Chandler was *Mrs. Bouncer* in the first playlet. The cast in the second was: T. R. Merritt, G. R. Marani, J. F. Manley, J. E. Lennard, E. B. Chandler and H. R. Wiggs. As both plays were acclaimed equally successful in the view of both the student audience and the staff, it was apparent that the new Dramatic Club was on its way.

THE steady toll by death among Ridleians in these years was again brought sharply home to them, young and old, when Ridley College lost the wise, steady guiding hand of her president, Mr. J. Herbert Mason in 1911. He had become president at a time when the depression of the Nineties had been heavy on Ridley, and the young College needed wise guidance after experiencing the lean years. By his personal vision and faith he had helped Ridley emerge from her bleak era financially sound and strong.

A most fitting tribute was paid to him by *Acta Ridleiana*, written at the time of his death: "It was an honour to the College to have such a man for its president. For over fifty years he filled a great position in Toronto. He was the founder of the Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation, and raised it to be the greatest financial corporation of its kind in Canada. . . . The thing he valued most, and laid emphasis upon at every opportunity, was character. That was what led him to take so great an interest in Ridley. Mr. Mason, as president, was an honour to Ridley College. The example of his life, its tireless industry, its dauntless courage, its wise prudence, its high character, its lofty ideals, is a very noble one for boys to have before them."

His deep interest in Ridley had remained so great that even when his health failed and he was asked to continue as president, the meetings of the Board were held in his house, often in his bedroom. He would neglect nothing which might help or advance Ridley.

The great consolation for his family in the years ahead would be that his name was linked to Ridley's most coveted and respected accolade, the award which was the symbol of the School itself, or at the least of its spiritual philosophy. The late president had endowed the Mason Gold Medal for Manliness years ago to perpetuate it. No Ridleian could have a finer monument.

A boy who had just graduated, after going through both schools, R. E. Ussher ('05-'10), had also died in 1911, of appendicitis while in Mexico. A skilful pen-and-ink artist, his work was familiar to all readers of *Acta* which

recorded at his untimely death that the present flourishing state of the college journal was owing more to him than to any other single person.

A plaque had also been placed in the chapel in memory of Albert E. (Bert) Austin ('03-'04) who had died in tragic circumstances in Egypt.

Mr. George H. Gooderham now became president which seemed particularly fitting for the Gooderham name had been associated with consistent family generosity toward Ridley. The Ridley-Gooderham link would be continuous, and one Gooderham would follow another as president. Most ardent of all in persuading Mr. Gooderham to accept the presidency had been Dr. Miller; there had been a warm association between them.

Another great benefactor of Ridley's had joined the Board, Colonel R. W. Leonard of St. Catharines. When Colonel Leonard became a governor an association was founded between the Leonard family and the College which was to mean much to Ridley. The value of the interest taken in Ridley by Col. Leonard and the Gooderham family was beyond any normal means of assessment.

Between 1911 and 1914 the appointment of Mr. Alfred Rogers as a director was the only other change in the Board.

FOUR GREAT YEARS OF CRICKET

"To the team: loyalty to your captain.

*"To all players: play a straight bat,
bowl a good length.*

*"To everybody: enthusiasm, confidence
and loyalty to Ridley."*

WHETHER or not Ridley's masters and boys could sense that the long-awaited turn to cricket triumph was coming to them in 1910, the cricket reporter on *Acta Ridleiana* obviously could feel a great season ahead. The above quotation closed his comments on the coming season which were a combination of a scolding for doubters and slackers and an exhortation to the whole school to get behind the team:

"Let me appeal to your spirit of loyalty first. The great schools of Ontario have decided, quite rightly, that cricket shall be the summer game. It is for you to show your loyalty by trying to make Ridley first in cricket. . . . Let there be such numbers for practice as have never been before. . . . Remember it is upon you that Ridley depends."

The power of the press – of *Acta* – apparently did its work for, after losing several preliminary matches, something transformed the 1910 School XI: "Toward the end of May a marked change was noticed; in batting, bowling

and fielding there was immense improvement." If the exhortations of *Acta* did not convert the XI in mid-season from a weak team into one which threatened to have championship calibre, something unknown did so. Without apparent reason, the Ridley XI suddenly became formidable just as their important inter-school games were coming due.

When their three Little Big Four games were played out Ridley was still not cricket champion for the first time, but they came close.

The first inkling the Old Boys had that a championship might be in the making in 1910 was on the day (June 8) that St. Andrew's came to Ridley for their annual cricket clash. Unexpectedly, Ridley downed St. Andrew's with authority by her first innings score; Cronyn 1, Lee, Tidy, Barnum and Daniel all scored in double figures. Ridley closed her first innings with 140 runs. St. Andrew's scored 66 in her first innings and 50 in her second, falling short by 24 runs and an innings.

T.C.S. came next, the match played on Varsity campus on June 10, with most of the Old Boys living in Toronto on hand, thirsty for a Little Big Four cricket championship after their long, long wait. On a fast wicket, Ridley batted first. Only Jarvis and Taylor reached double figures with their bats and Ridley's total of 71 for her first innings score looked dangerously low. But great bowling by Jarvis and Tidy held the T.C.S. bats to 56, with their 10th wicket down. Ridley then scored another 30 in a second innings before stumps had to be drawn, with the game decided on the first innings score: 71 to 56.

By now cricket exaltation began to take over as it seemed that an elusive cricket championship was at last to be captured. It was at stake when they went to Upper Canada's cricket field for the big test on June 18. It was not to be. Upper Canada batted first and were all out for 67, well before lunch, with Ridley's hopes high as their innings opened. They were quickly deflated; Ridley could do nothing with the U.C.C. bowlers, and they were all out for a terrible 20 runs. ("It was so paltry that one could hardly believe it possible that such a good batting team as ours had been disposed of so easily.") They had to believe it. Upper Canada scored another 123 in their second innings, which meant Ridley had 170 runs to make in their second. It was hopeless but they tried, making 50 for 5 wickets when stumps had to be drawn. The defeat was dismaying, particularly because of their exuberant pre-game expectations.

Yet the change in Ridley's cricket fortunes was clearly on the way. The 1910 team which started Ridley toward her historic cricket peak in 1911 was composed of: P. C. Tidy (captain); H. C. Taylor (high batting average 13.9); R. C. Barnum; A. T. Wood, Æ. Jarvis (best bowling average 5.6); J. K. Cronyn; T. W. Lee; N. H. Daniel, G. E. Blake; G. R. Marani, A. E. Mix and W. H. Woolworth.

With the whole school thrilling, Ridley's proud XI in 1911 did not clinch their first mythical Little Big Four crown until the last dramatic moment in

the final match of a glorious season. They had a cricket championship at last!

This was why the Ridley XI of 1911 was perhaps the most historically important of all Ridley's cricket teams; it spelled the turn of the cricket tide. The season of 1911 saw the dreams and hopes which the Headmaster had never relinquished since the School's first year all coming true. Cricket skill, enthusiasm and strength had at last permeated all Ridley's forms and ages, to make Ridley a cricket school. It had been achieved gradually and now was reflected at the top, in the School XI, with strength in depth behind them. From 1911 forward Ridley rapidly became the most formidable cricket school of the Little Big Four. The signal of this to their rivals was in the four Little Big Four cricket championships won by Ridley in the next five years. The transformation of 1911 was permanent.

The 1911 team had looked promising from the moment the weather let them at the practice wickets on the grass. They had six old colours, including P. C. Tidy in his second year as captain, a tested tactician. Five won their cricket colours and now joined the team for the first time – Laddie Cassels, H. H. Blake, A. St. C. Gordon, H. F. Sneed and S. P. Trench.

In their preliminary warm-up games before tackling their three rival schools, they won and lost against Niagara Falls, defeated Grimsby at Lake Lodge, lost to Trinity College and won against Hamilton. That meant only a 3-3 record, but they had improved steadily and were out of a batting slump before they met T.C.S. in the first school match.

They won by 152 to 13 and 29 with all Ridley alerted, young and old, that perhaps this was the long-awaited victory team.

The St. Andrew's game at Toronto was much stiffer and in doubt all the way. Batting first St. Andrew's made 54 in their first innings. Then, with 9 wickets gone for only 48 runs, things looked serious for Ridley when Laddie Cassels, a first-year player, came in after a good effort by Tidy and Cronyn before Cronyn went out. The cricket reporter told of it: "Cassels was playing very carefully and, finally, with the score at 50, he changed his style and commenced hitting. His first effort – a long hit – netted the runs to tie, a neat four. In the next over he quickly added seven runs more before he was finally bowled. Tidy 15 and Cassels 17 were the only players on the team to reach doubles, but that was enough."

It was a win for Ridley, even if 61-54 meant a narrow margin and if the clock had to preserve it. St. Andrew's made 49 for 6 in their second innings when stumps had to be drawn, with the game decided on the first innings scores.

Ridley was now two thirds on the road to the momentous 1911 cricket crown.

Then came the crucial match with Upper Canada College, played on Ridley's campus on June 10, with a soft wicket owing to a thunderstorm just

before the game started. Ridley's cricketers were confident, but they did not actually expect to win as easily as they did. In their first innings they made 92; and then, owing to a sensational left-handed catch by Jarvis, they held U.C.C. to only 64 runs in their first. Ridley then made 69 and, with 40 minutes left to play, U.C.C. had 98 runs to make. When stumps were drawn they had scored only 55 for 9 wickets – short by a big 42 runs. It was Ridley's game – *Ridley's first Little Big Four Cricket Championship!*

Here is the scoring of the first innings on which the U.C.C. game was won:

RIDLEY COLLEGE – 1st Innings

Marani, c. Drummond, b. Essex	4
Jarvis, b. Essex	13
Barnum, c. De Gruchy, b. Essex	5
Cronyn, c. Drummond, b. Brown	27
Tidy, c. Palmer, b. Essex	7
Blake, b. Clarkson	8
Gordon, b. Clarkson	4
Mix, c. Palmer, b. Clarkson	12
Cassels, run out	4
Woolworth, c. Denneby, b. Brown	0
Sneed, not out	2
Extras	6
	<hr/>
	92

UPPER CANADA COLLEGE – 1st Innings

Inglis, c. Cronyn, b. Jarvis	7
Grant, c. Woolworth, b. Jarvis	3
Drummond, c. Barnum, b. Tidy	16
Clarkson, c. Gordon, b. Tidy	4
Essex, b. Jarvis	7
Brown, c. Sneed, b. Jarvis	2
Palmer, c. Jarvis, b. Tidy	2
De Gruchy, c. Gordon, b. Tidy	9
Denneby, c. Blake, b. Tidy	1
Tuck, c. Cronyn, b. Tidy	4
Sear, not out	4
Extras	3
	<hr/>
	64

The hopeful prediction that Ridley's new cricket greatness would continue was borne out in 1912; they so narrowly missed repeating as inter-school cricket champions that a mere 12 runs thwarted them in the final game of an exciting season. After winning six of their first nine games, they lost a heart-breaker to U.C.C., 114-102 – that fatal 12 runs! ("Let no one tell you that tension and excitement cannot mount in cricket until it is almost unbearable.

There was as much chewing of finger nails and gnawing of moustaches by Old Boys in this U.C.C. cricket match as in any football game Ridley ever played.”)

The tension was understandable, for Ridley had first defeated both T.C.S. and St. Andrew's quite handily and had even bested an experienced University of Toronto eleven. Only the U.C.C. eleven then stood between them and the coveted cricket crown. But when they encountered U.C.C. they were in a bowling slump; Ridley swallowed all excuses and declared the best team won.

There were four new colours on this 1912 team (Irvine, Manley, Martin and Merritt). The *Acta* cricket expert commented: “Among the old colours, Jarvis, Marani and Cassels did well, and Sneed showed great improvement.”

At the end of the 1912 season, an exhilarating innovation – a tour of Western Ontario – was arranged for the Ridley cricketers through the generosity of Mr. G. H. Gooderham. They were away as soon as school closed, playing the first game in Brantford; they won easily, 108-47. Then it was London, against the Asylum team, which they won quite easily by 6 wickets and 16 runs. They had victories over Galt, then Hamilton and Mimico Asylum, and missed making a sweep of all games on the tour by playing a draw with the Toronto Cricket Club.

The tour was not only greatly enjoyed by the cricketers, it was a valuable promotional project for Ridley. (“We met people who said they had never heard of Ridley.”) The cricket tours were continued in the next three years, and even in some of the war-years to follow. They not only went as far afield as Ottawa and Montreal but also visited several American cities. After the war they would go to both coasts, often finishing without a defeat, and to Bermuda. By the beginning of the 1920s, a Ridley cricket tour was approaching the category of a tradition.

With another year behind them, the School XI once more proved (in 1913) that they were masters of school cricket, for they were again Cricket Champions of the Little Big Four. The triumph was taken in stride, as if foreordained, for Ridley's confidence was now soaring. Interest in cricket was like an infectious fever each spring, with all forms and ages victims of the contagion. No more did the sports reporter feel he must appeal for support and a stronger school and cricket spirit; they were fired and inspired with it. The members of the proud First XI were kings of the campus and their batting or bowling style lauded by the youngsters and earnestly imitated. They were given such adulation it was fortunate they were steady, unassuming young sportsmen in the best sense of the word: the championship status was Ridley's, not theirs.

In 1913 they had not only defeated their three school rivals with remarkable ease, they would have won all nine of their matches that year if they had not encountered the Toronto *Colts* who had many old Ridley cricket greats on

their team, including no less than four former Ridley cricket captains: Mill Jarvis, P. C. Tidy, Dick Harcourt and Joey Lee. These four Old Ridleians scored 60 runs between them. The School lost cheerfully, 103-82.

It was more revealing of their batting power when they scored 178 runs in a first innings against Upper Canada, but the most thrilling of all was J. F. Manley scoring his century – 101 against the strong Hamilton cricket club.

It was only Ridley’s second century, so it was a tremendous thing. Alex Mackenzie had scored the first (103 not out) back in 1897.

Despite this exciting individual batting feat by Manley it was Archie Mix who held the high batting average for that season, a remarkable 51.5. The 1913 Little Big Four champions, with Geoff Marani as captain, were so strong at bat that each of their first six men to step up to the wicket (in most of the season’s matches) had a seasonal average in double figures:

	<i>Batting Average</i>
A. E. Mix	51.5
J. F. Manley	24.3
H. Drope	24.2
A. S. Gordon	20.8
V. R. Irvine	18.4
H. Cassels	13.5

C. K. C. Martin had the best bowling average, a good 5.1.

The team to tour in 1913 included Marani, Martin, Mix, Irvine, Manley, Cassels, Drope, Merritt, Turnbull and Clarke. They defeated London and Guelph but lost to Toronto *Colts* and Mimico Asylum. Dean Gooderham accompanied the team as the Old Boys’ representative.

Ridley’s cricket success went on and on. Each year, the *Acta* reporter was saying, “Ridley is seeing more interest in cricket than ever before,” and judged by the high proportion of the college population who were at the practice nets or playing with the first, second or third school teams, or with the Lower School or Dean’s House or one of the form teams, it was probably true that each year was indeed setting a new record in student participation. It might be proper and polite to record that this was from sheer love of cricket, but the continued brilliant success of Ridley’s first School team was undoubtedly the inspiration behind it all. This does not imply that love of winning at Ridley was stronger than the love of the game; Ridleians tried manfully – traditionally – to be true sportsmen, but their current cricket record acted as a spur.

Between 1910 and 1914 inclusive Ridley had lost only two inter-school cricket games, one in 1910 and one in 1912, and each loss had cost them the championship. But they held the crown in the other three years.

In 1914 down went T.C.S. once more; then down went Upper Canada and St. Andrew’s, leaving no possible doubt about Ridley’s dominance in their school cricket world at the end of this five-year cricket period.

It had taken long years to develop cricket at Ridley to this state of excellence which was so exhilarating it was getting difficult for the cricket reporter to write with becoming modesty about Ridley's first XI. In the spring of '14 he only managed it by hunting for cause to criticize: "The fielding was at times brilliant . . . but the running was anything but good in the T.C.S. game and several useful wickets were wasted through carelessness in this department of the game." (The proud cricket colours might well have asked: "Will nothing satisfy you but perfection?")

That Ridley's cricket success was not due to a few brilliant players but had been developed from strength coming up through all the forms, is perhaps seen in the fact that the old colours kept moving on, that new teams were organized each year, and that their three championship teams were led by three different captains: P. C. Tidy (1911), G. R. Marani (1913) and Archie Mix (1914). (*Disaster at the wicket*: "When you perceive that it is actually your turn to bat, you stand up, take a long, deep breath, cast a look around the field such as Rhoderick Dhu of Fitz-James might have done . . . and by making a brave stand show the bowler that you are ready for the coming onslaught. . . . 'Zip!' – You hear a peculiar sound, and you wheel about to find those deliciously varnished wickets and those bright new bails lying scattered about you. . . . Then your unsympathetic successor hurriedly puts on his batting gloves and asks what the bowling is like . . . you have not been in long enough to find out, you mumble words. . . . Then you sit down by yourself and hold a soliloquy . . .")

An inspiring newcomer to Ridley cricket competition in the spring of 1914 was the first XI of Royal Military College from Kingston, in a game played on Ridley's own beautiful campus. Ridley came very strong in their second innings to no avail; time forced a decision on the play of the first innings, Ridley losing 160-65. The triumphant 1914 eleven who hoped they would play R.M.C. again, were A. E. Mix, captain; G. R. Marani; V. R. Irvine; J. F. Manley; G. D. Wood; H. F. Sneed; J. H. Drope; A. R. Turnbull; G. D. Clarke; E. F. Lefroy; E. S. Jenoure, with A. F. Gates and A. A. Porter, spares. They did not play R.M.C. again; before another cricket season, war had come.

In the four years from 1911 to 1914, the Dean's House team, the Ridley second team and a junior team from the Lower School were also playing inspired cricket, spurred by the success of the School team. Some wonderful cricketers were in the making. The Lower School eleven covered itself with cricket glory. In 1911 they defeated U.C.C. juniors twice, and in 1914 the Ridley juniors won all six of their outside games. Rep Williams would have strutted if that gentle schoolmaster had known how. One reason for the 1914 success of the juniors was the rapid development of an outstanding future Ridley cricket great – an athlete who was destined to world fame in golf. When Sandy (C. R.) Somerville won the Junior School trophy for the best

cricket batting average in the 1914 season, Rep Williams wrote in *Acta*: "Every time he has gone to the wickets he has . . . strengthened the promise of one day becoming a really first-class bat. When we remember that this is his first season, we must all congratulate him on his deserved success."

This was an accurate prediction, but too conservative. Long before Sandy Somerville became the only Canadian golfer ever to win the U.S. Amateur Golf Championship he had achieved in cricket at Ridley the highest individual score ever made by a Canadian schoolboy cricketer.

The future of cricket at Ridley was not only assured but filled with great promise. There would be many a team like the inter-school champions of 1911, 1913 and 1914. The other three teams of the Little Big Four must have looked with chagrin toward the future; Ridley's second, third and Lower School teams held so many prospects for colours in the years ahead it must have appeared that the orange-and-black's cricket prowess was to be a permanent, painful affliction they must bear.

In retrospect, behind this emergence of Ridley as a great cricket school was a planned purpose of long standing which had known a lot of frustration and some painful moments before it was at last realized. The year 1911, when Ridley disclosed such cricket strength her first XI could even defeat T.C.S., once the freely acknowledged home and incubator of Canadian school cricket, marked the end of twenty years of school-sport development, designed to make Ridley a cricket school first of all. The length of time it required is not surprising when the obstacles are remembered. Headmaster Miller's desire in 1889 had been to mould Ridley rapidly into the tradition and spirit of cricket, but this proved easier than to create outstanding cricket teams. Unlike the older T.C.S., whose first students had been largely the sons of British cricket-playing families, Ridley's first students were largely Canadian-born. Their proportion then mounted steadily as Canada developed until, by the time of the South African War, Ridley was so solidly Canadian-born that among the small balance there were often more American than British boys. The Canadian new boys were arriving with some familiarity with tennis, with actual knowledge of baseball but none of cricket. They had been playing baseball in their public schools or on a corner lot at home, and some of them had expected to play baseball at Ridley but not cricket.

For a time, tennis seriously competed for the interest of Ridley's boys in the "Cricket Term". At one period the Ridley tennis club had three courts in operation at once, at the very moment when the cricketers were trying desperately to create a strong first XI. In such a small school, something had to be eliminated, or no springtime sport would be developed satisfactorily. For lack of boy-power, all would be mediocre. They concentrated on cricket.

THERE was persistence in another school phase: public speaking. With very large Sixth Forms in these years (the largest in history to date graduated in 1914), the Headmaster placed more and more emphasis on debates and on lectures and speakers on a wide range of subjects. It was policy to find outstanding speakers for Saturday mornings at the School, but he now also encouraged the Fifth and Sixth Formers to attend club meetings in St. Catharines when good speakers were scheduled. At the School or downtown during 1913 and 1914 they heard Sir Martin Harvey; Yeats, the Irish poet; Mr. Nash, Provincial Entomologist; Mr. Speight, on Dickens' *Pickwick Papers*; Commander Evans, who was with Scott in the Antarctic, and many more excellent addresses.

The long effort by the Headmaster to teach boys how to be comfortable while talking on their feet, had been so persistent that a Speakers' Class had been organized. Its value could be seen each time the long list of boys were called upon to speak at the annual Cross-Country suppers, still a traditional Ridley night of many toasts and responses. Dr. Miller was not trying to develop great orators. He was just seeking to ensure that Ridley's seniors would be able to handle any speaking assignment to come their way with poise and confidence when they graduated. An increase in debates and the staging of mock parliaments, to give the boys knowledge of the Canadian parliamentary system, also served to assist speaking ability.

The big trouble was to find the time in the School's schedule for all the things the Headmaster was tempted to try.

The boys liked debates, especially when they could suggest their own subjects, for that opened the door to the age-old schoolboy delight in stumping the master or at least confusing him. In their view, this, plus the element of competition, made a debate far more interesting than a lecture which could be boring and dreary. One memorable and valuable debate was: What is a genius? All schools have known it. The boys quickly nominated Marconi, Maxim and Alexander Graham Bell as geniuses, but Leonardo da Vinci was accepted as the perfect example because he pioneered and invented prodigiously and not only contributed to contemporary knowledge but recorded things of the past and inspired mankind to search for knowledge in the future in several directions at once. ("We argued for and against the musical and mathematical boy-prodigies, and went at it hot and strong on whether or not the eccentricities of the geniuses did not mean they were half-cracked.") The conclusion of the Fifth Form seemed sound that a genius is possessed with a special creative urge, but they did not settle whether he had this at birth or developed his unique mental ability through fortunate possession of great powers of combined concentration, imagination and observation. ("If originality and invention are criterions, Ridley is packed with geniuses of mischief," said a disillusioned new master.)

There was a pronounced rise in patriotic feeling in the air, as if war could be sensed. It was undoubtedly with the thought of stiffening the national spirit that the I.O.D.E. of St. Catharines offered a valuable prize to the Ridley student who authored the best essay on: *Canada's Duty to the Empire*. The contest was won by Harold Drope, his prize-winning essay then appearing in full in *Acta Ridleiana*. The young essayist placed the utmost importance on serving the Empire's cause in a rather unrealistic proposal regarding Quebec. "First," he wrote, "we may try to solve the problems by moulding the French more completely into the actual imperial life of the Dominion." It seems obvious that English Canada did not yet understand the French Canadians or know that such terminology would only antagonize them for it implied creating an all-British Canada. No attempt at moulding Quebec would succeed if it was to help the British Empire.

There was no direct connection, yet the first essay contest led to another competition – for the School's aspiring orators – with the essay on Canada and the Empire entered as a speech. Prizes were offered by Dr. Merritt and Mr. Kingstone. When the contest was held the general criticism of the judges was that Ridley's budding young orators were inclined to monotony, lacked a forceful delivery and too often sounded as if they were reading their speeches or had memorized them. Tuition in elocution was needed. The adjudicators themselves seemed to need practice in the task of judging. They were uncertain how to weigh research, originality and style of delivery, and whether or not one speech, which was a series of quotations from notable addresses, was even eligible. They finally awarded first place jointly to Drope and his prize-winning essay, *Canada's Duty to the Empire*, and to Boyd III for *Immigration into Canada*. There was as great a diversity in subjects as there was in oratorical style – Mix, *Japan*; Peek, *The Blacksmith's Trade*; Heighington, *Alphonse Daudet*, and Boyd ma, *Maple Sugar*.

The English classes, taken by Dr. Miller and an assistant master, did not escape suggestions for debate or at least class interruptions. A certain pestiferous student began a spontaneous debate on the use of the apostrophe; he said it was confused and overdone, quoting the authorized version of the Bible by "His Majesties (*sic*) special command", which also used this form for the much-quoted: "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesars and unto God the things that are Gods." He suggested a debate on: "*Should the apostrophe be abolished?*"

The idea was acclaimed with enthusiasm by the boys. The debate's proposer at once pointed to two names familiar to all Ridleians: St. Thomas' Church and Nicholls' Hall. He argued that *Acta's* editors generally but not always used St. Thomas', and that an apostrophe for Nicholls' Hall was also both used and not used. Was there no official policy?

Other situations were more sticky for the masters, but they could always

fall back on talk of "areas of acceptance", where no rule or reason seemed to apply to the apostrophe's use or omittance. There was a rule to be followed to indicate the possessive, but they had to admit the use of the apostrophe fluctuated unreasonably when the grammar was ambiguous. There could be no argument about the need of it to replace missing letters. An example was given (and jotted down in 1913): "Well go along if hell tell me wholl save on paper and if therere editors whod care."

This seems to have squelched further discussion on the poor apostrophe, but there were more suggestions for debate. It was a distinct classroom trend of this period. Some proposals were facetious and dismissed at once; some were "stumpers", meant to embarrass the master; but many were serious and well worth exploring by discussion. One good debate was: *Is a sensitive man a weak man?* A fine study of human character resulted. A somewhat similar offering: *Should imagination or realism be encouraged most?* did the same thing, but it inspired so many references and quotations from the great thinkers including the social philosophers that it is recalled how the schedule of the English class was disrupted for a full week.

Finding stumpers for the master was, of course, just part of the eternal war between schoolboys and teachers. Ridley was in a merry mood, and masters did not object too much when the boys brought the current fad of riddles into class. It was such a fad that boys would stop each other in the corridors to challenge: "Ridley, riddle me this," and would then offer their stumper. One boy "innocently" asked: "What type of wood did Noah use to build the Ark?" Suggestions on that were coming in for days; one boy spent two long afternoons in Toronto's reference library and was still guessing: "Gopher wood, maybe, or sandalwood, perhaps." The same provocative lad who thought he had a stumper about the Ark, asked another one: "You could see the year upside down in 1881; when will it happen again?" This time he was pungently told the English class was no place to solve every conundrum to come into his head. But a lot of boys did intense research and one came up with the year 6009. (He seems to have overlooked 1961.)

Another remembered subject of debate was: *Is absent-mindedness the sign of a disorderly mind?* It was perhaps suggested as a jibe at the traditional absent-minded professor, or perhaps it was inspired by the absent-minded Jones who mislaid his ticket on the Grand Trunk train. A favourite Ridleian insult of those days was to exclaim: "You are as slow as the Grand Trunk!" but the railway conductor was not so slow he would accept a Bursar's chit in lieu of a ticket to Toronto. The chit said:

To Bissonnette, Case & Co: Please sell one pair
of garters and necktie to bearer Jones. Return
voucher to parents when rendering account –
George Thairs, Bursar

The astonishing diversity of items carried in a schoolboy's pocket was then revealed embarrassingly, as Jones searched and searched for his ticket: a four-bladed knife; a mussed handkerchief covered with ink and gum stains; two pen nibs; four nails; a shoestring watch-fob; two peppermints; a few love letters and several mechanical puzzles formed of metal rings. Just as he was about to be thrown off the Grand Trunk, a despised New Boy found his ticket under the seat by using his new pocket flashlight, a fascinating possession but second in inspiring envy to one of the latest fountain pens, a bit leaky, but altogether miraculous.

Jones thanked the New Boy graciously, eager to make friends and try out his wonderful possessions. This acceptance of a New Boy was quite permissible, because nowadays new boys were scorned as nonentities for only a short time after their arrival. They were happily surprised to discover that hazing at Ridley was now mild, brief and painless. It permitted them to enter the full life of the School almost at once. Said *Acta*: "Our new Ridleians this year (1912) were astonished at Ridley's excellent custom – (the New Boy's Concert) – which is quite contrary to the usual boarding school tradition. Undoubtedly, this is a strong feature of Ridley life, and produces in return a spontaneous loyalty to the school, which goes a long way toward that *esprit de corps* which is so necessary. . . . If ever a school has preserved a fine spirit, Ridley has done so."

Perhaps the most marked new development, and the one longest remembered by the boys of these years, was in the wonderful atmosphere given to the Sunday evening chapel services. The boys were hearing effective speakers, including some noted orators of Ontario, but never a prolonged, long-winded sermon to set their young minds to wandering, while they scrootched on seats growing harder and harder, mentally groaning in schoolboy boredom and restlessness. An imposing list of guest speakers appeared to give short talks, including Archdeacon Patterson; Canon Cayley; Archdeacon Armitage; Prof. Hallam of Wycliffe; the Reverend Mr. Skey of St. Ann's; Prof. Cosgrave of Trinity; the Reverend W.W. Judd; Principal Hutton; the Reverend L. W. Broughall; His Lordship, the Bishop of Huron; the Rev. W. L. Archer; Mr. Henry J. O'Brien, and Archdeacon Renison.

Dr. Miller had set the pattern long before, and always requested that his guest speakers should honour his ten-minute time limit. They did, most of the time. Ridley's Sunday evening chapel services were widely known in the Anglican church, and Dr. Miller's brief meaningful talks, which seemed to catch and hold the interest of the boys and always left a serious thought with them, were talked about and admired in other schools. He never preached, yet there was always a message. It is a pity a few of those short talks for boys were not recorded and preserved. The brevity of the addresses must have spoiled protracted services and long sermons for the boys in their adult years,

but the impression left on them by their chapel on Sunday evening was one of Ridley's finest gifts.

“This is far better than in our day at Springbank,” said a Ridleian of 1896-1900, who had attended a chapel service in 1912. “On Sundays we went to St. Thomas' Church in St. Catharines in the morning. In the afternoon we had a chapel service in the prayer hall. At night we all traipsed back to St. Thomas' for a third service – and often a third heavyweight sermon in one day. Because we had prayers both morning and evening on the other six days, we knew we were in a church-school, but we definitely did not look forward to Sundays with pleasure.

“The evening chapel services being held now are one of Ridley's finest features. Preserve them.”

*Father in Heaven who lovest all,
O help thy children when they call,
That they may build, from age to age,
An undefiled heritage.*

– *The School Hymn*

The End of the Good Years

“If there was jingoism in Vitai Lampada; if the glory of Empire was in Thompson’s Rule Britannia; and if Russell’s story on Balaclava and Newbolt’s Drake’s Drum glorified war, the boys of Ridley did not care.”

IT IS wise to remember this pre-1914 Ridley – to remember her quiet beauty and charm in her serene island of remoteness, well aside from the world’s bustle and stir; to remember the calm peacefulness of her chapel’s Sunday evenings, the glory of her new-won athletic prowess, and the unquestioning loyalty to Crown and country which imbued every Ridley boy. There would be no change in the simple faith of the boys in the principles for which Ridley stood, but this pre-war Ridley would soon be gone forever. The Canadian scene was changing even before the upheaval of war, and the sense of a separate, isolated identity which Ridley had known ever since 1889 was about to vanish. The period of Canada’s history between 1900 and 1914, which her historians and sociologists have come to call the Good Years, was ending, and neither Canada nor Ridley would ever be quite the same again. Their atmosphere changed and the familiar character of both country and school also changed.

The industrial revolution which sparked the change had actually begun reaching Canada in full flood about 1910, with her great period of railway development leading the way. Part of the Canadian dream was realized as rails went over the Rockies to link the East with the Pacific Coast. The lusty infant country was suffering from growth-pangs, but factory smoke had thickened over Central Canada.

Much more was happening to Canada than just the coming of the age of gadgets, but the new products of the burgeoning manufacturing industry were visible and fascinating. The walking stick and buffalo robe were going, but there were Blue Jay corn-plasters; gleaming soda fountains; electric toasters; electric irons and gentlemen’s washable collars (not celluloid). Everyone wore buttoned shoes and a button-hook was the most common of

household gadgets. There were not only more and more Model-Ts, Chandelers, Chevrolets and Buicks on the roads, but also gasoline-engined tractors for progressive farmers and outboard motors for well-to-do sportsmen. A dictaphone had grown out of the gramophone. There was a device called a comptometer. And if the 5-cent scribbler would soon be gone, there were bottled ketchup, canned corn, intriguing pillows of shredded wheat, and small boys with mouths agape were watching rice and wheat kernels being puffed like popcorn inside glass-walled demonstration trucks in the towns and villages. Plug chewing tobacco was still a popular antidote to factory dust, but the annual per capita consumption of coffin nails (cigarettes) equalled only about four per week, despite the usual surreptitious experiments by Ridley's boys. The Women's Christian Temperance Union was hysterically assailing the evils of drink. An Abolish-the-bar election failed in Ontario in 1914. Government statistics said a Canadian was only drinking about six quarts of whisky per year (when infants were included, of course). Gingerbread architecture was going, with Victorian spaciousness, high ceilings and stiff-necked rectitude. The swelling rise of materialism, the companion of industrialization, was striving to make a laughing-stock of such Victorian things as business ethics, family respectability, and the idea that an intellectual or religious career could hold profit for youth. Canada was also experiencing her first taste of radical intellectualism and left-wing socialism.

It is true, of course, that probably no Ridleian, student or Old Boy, had yet used the term "class war", or did more than grin tolerantly at the brash young radical liberals who were openly advocating such shocking things as birth control and free love, cubism, feminism, and the New Psychology, often in free verse. Few Canadians as yet understood, or even saw the portent, just as they probably did not realize the growing strength of leftist socialism until the time of the famous Winnipeg strike just after the Kaiser's War. Yet there was vicious violence in some of labour's strikes in the United States, much talk of wage-slaves, of the Ogre of Capitalism and the Robber Barons. Even now in Canada it could be felt that new shrines and talismans were in the making, for the old, comfortable Canadian virtues and values were already being openly derided as old-fashioned nonsense or called the self-righteous hypocrisy of national immaturity. Clean, unselfish patriotism, which was the only kind Ridley knew, was being characterized with a sneer as sentimental pap.

Ridley did not yet hear the sneers. The Ontario Fourth Reader of 1910 was somehow symbolic of both Ridley and the Good Years. Remember it? The flyleaf proclaimed *One Flag, one Fleet, one Throne*. It carried inspiring prose and poetry for schoolboys, the kind that lifted their heads to the glories of Empire – Sir Francis Doyle's *The Private of the Buffs*, Henley's *England, my England*, Thompson's *Rule, Britannia*, Southey on Nelson, Macaulay's *The*

Armada, Byron's *The Eve of Waterloo*, and verse by Wordsworth, Keats and Browning. Kipling's *Recessional* was there, with Sir Henry Newbolt's *Drake's Drum*. And most wonderful and thrilling of all to a schoolboy was Newbolt's other one –

VITAI LAMPADA

*The sand of the desert is sodden red –
 Red with the wreck of the square that broke –
 The gatling's jammed, and the colonel dead,
 And the regiment blind with dust and smoke:
 The river of death has brimmed its banks,
 And England's far and honour a name,
 When the voice of a schoolboy rallies the ranks:
 "Play up! Play up! and play the game."*

If there was jingoism in *Vitai Lampada*; if the glory of Empire was in Thompson's *Rule Britannia*; and if Russell's story on *Balaclava* and Newbolt's *Drake's Drum* glorified war, the boys of Ridley did not care.

There was a lot of both the Ridley boy and of the Good Years in that 1910 reader, and a lot of pre-1914 Canada too, which was still proudly, tightly linked to the Mother Country. The 1910 Reader would last a while, but soon its tone would be altered to reflect the marked social change which was already taking place and which would be rapid after the coming war had subsided. Old Boys would look back at the Good Years with wistful regret that they were gone, with so much that they represented.

The end of the Good Years also marked the beginning of the end of Ridley's wonderful remoteness to the outside world. It had served its purpose, but in the years ahead each social change would have a sharper and sharper impact for there was also a virtual revolution in communications. No longer isolated and immune, Ridley would rapidly become an integral part of the Canadian social scene, reflecting its thinking, moods and attitudes. This would be a more sophisticated Ridley. Some Old Boys saw this development with regret, but they also knew that in no other way could Ridley's boys be armoured spiritually and fitted mentally to contend with the more competitive and less gentle way of life in which they must live and which soon developed.

But first there was war to be fought, with no warning, and only a little time left.

THE rise of cricket to a new pinnacle of popularity and success at Ridley did not detract from interest in the events of the annual games. All over the world the distance runners were still attracting tremendous throngs, and

match races between some of the best were being promoted in Canada. Interest in road racing was helped along by the modern promotional methods which were making the Olympic Games a spectacle of international interest. This was reflected at Ridley in intense practising in the jumps and sprints even before the cricket season was over.

*Our Reverend Head was heard to say
When Ings from out Alberta way
Won honours in the junior race,
"Who said that practice did not pay?"*

*We wonder why Detweiler, too,
Did not of Honours win a few,
And those two Barrie lads so bright
Who started training in the night.*

— Acta

In the period between 1911 and 1914 the annual games were generally held toward the end of May, with the campus fresh and green and the bright dresses of the ladies adding patches of colour at the edge of the cricket ground. The band of the newly (1912) named 19th Lincoln Regiment was always on hand, smartly uniformed.

The array of glittering challenge cups had continued to grow, and Mrs. Miller had now relinquished the honour and somewhat arduous task of presenting prizes to Mrs. George H. Gooderham, wife of the President of the Board. Both the Welland House and the Upper School were regularly the scene of teas and parties. Here are the champions, 1911-1914:

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>Junior</i>
1911	G. H. Hughson	A. St. C. Gordon	J. F. Manley
1912	S. P. Trench	A. F. Gates	F. W. Ings
1913	A. E. Farmer	Henry Cassels	F. W. Ings
1914	J. F. Manley	H. R. Barr	G. B. Hoststetter

Everything was going so wonderfully well with Ridley's athletic programme by the spring of 1914 that a new event was added. The first Ridley Steeplechase in college history was run three weeks before Sports Day. It had long been an idea of the Headmaster, and Nannette Miller both provided a Challenge Cup and personally took part in laying out the difficult course with the help of Mr. H. H. Wallace, experienced in cross-country running. It went up and down hill, across ditches and fences, and over so many water and ravine obstacles that it was obviously going to require fine condition and a brave heart.

The initial race caused so much excitement the entire school emphatically declared that a steeplechase must now be a regular Ridley feature. Three dogged runners came into view lapped closely together on the final stretch of flat – Henry Cassels, C. G. Brock and Eric Lefroy. Then Cassels fought fiercely into a lead and looked a sure winner, when he suffered such a cramp he had to drop out while in sight of the tape. That was a heartbreaker. Then Brock and Lefroy raced across the final stretch of campus like a team, Brock winning by a whisper. (It was apparent by this note in *Acta* that Nannette, the Upper School's only girl student, was now at Havergal where she was first called Nan: "In thanking Nan for the splendid Cup, we all feel glad that she was able to see the first of what will be a long series of annual Ridley 'chases. We hope she will present the cup for *her* race, whenever she can.") At this moment, the steeplechase appeared about to become a classic Ridley race; but the war intervened and there was no post-war revival.

BY NOW automobiles were beginning to bring visitors to Ridley's Prize Days but often had trouble arriving on time. The Bishop of Niagara wrote to the Headmaster just before that year's Prize Day:

Dear Dr. Miller,

Mr. and Mrs. Witton, Mrs. Clark and myself will leave Highfield College at twelve o'clock on Friday. We shall arrive about three. It is a first class auto and should be good for 15 miles an hour.

Hoping you have a fine Prize Day, with kindest regards from Mrs. Clark, believe me

Very sincerely,
William Niagara

The Bishop's auto developed "splutters", and the party did not arrive until everything was over. It was said the Bishop only chuckled because jeering boys at Vineland had yelled: "Get a horse!"

But weather no longer could completely ruin Prize Day's proceedings and speeches, for the new gymnasium provided perfect indoor accommodation. The presentation of the long list of academic awards each year was now being held in the high auditorium, always tastefully decorated. Holding proceedings outdoors in beautiful weather had often been colourful, but too many had been rained out or hot suns had caused serious discomfort for the visitors, not to mention the boys. New special prizes had begun to appear. In 1912, for instance, Smoot (W.) Mavor won first prize for speaking, with K. Jarvis second. Clark Montgomery won the new shooting prize, with Arthur Bishop second. W. H. R. Jarvis, J. A. Boyd and Heighington mi won the three new \$25 scholarships for Forms II, III and IV.



RIDLEY'S FIRST L.B.F. CHAMPIONSHIP XI-1911

T.C.S. 13; Ridley 152 St. Andrew's 54; Ridley 61; U.C.C. 64; Ridley 92
Front (l. to r.): A. St. C. Gordon; H. H. Blake; R. C. Barnum; H. F. Sneed; S. P. Trench.
2nd Row: Æ. Jarvis; Mr. E. G. Powell; P. C. Tidy (Captain); A. E. Mix. *Back Row:* J. K. Cronyn;
W. H. Woolworth; G. R. Marani; (absent: Laddie Cassels).



THE LITTLE BIG FOUR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS, 1912

Outside rear oval (l. to r.): H. F. Sneed; T. Tucker; A. E. Mix; A. Torre; C. O. Thistlethwaite; A. St. C. Gordon; C. L. W. Nicholson; W. L. Duffield; G. R. Marani; J. H. Drope; C. K. C. Martin; H. S. Gooderham; J. L. Salway; J. F. Manley. Centre (seated): Mr. H. C. Griffith (coach); H. Cassels, captain; Mr. Claude Pascoe. *In front:* C. C. S. Montgomery; J. H. Peters; J. Crossland; A. E. Farmer; T. R. Merritt.

Following were the winners of the Mason Gold Medal and the Head Boys of both the School and the Lower School during these pre-war years.

MASON GOLD MEDAL FOR TRUE MANLINESS (on the vote of the boys)		HEAD BOY (Governor-General's Gold Medal)	HEAD BOY of the Lower School (Mason Gold Medal)
1911	W. D. J. Jarvis	H. H. Wrong	R. L. Peek
1912	F. H. Marani	K. Jarvis	W. H. R. Jarvis
1913	Hamilton Cassels	C. K. C. Martin	D. G. McAllister
1914	J. F. Manley	E. M. Boyd	G. M. Thorpe

The old difficulty of keeping masters over an extended period was still a Ridley problem, as it is for all schools, especially preparatory colleges independent of the provincial system. It was always noticeable when the Michaelmas terms began in September; there were invariably new masters to be introduced; others would be gone. In 1911 alone, Mr. A. E. Miller left after seven years to return to England; Mr. Art Hooper (Classics) left after two years for a university appointment, and Ridley also lost Mrs. Montgomery, matron of the Upper School since 1908. Such changes were chronic, inevitable.

An Old Boy came home to stay. Harry Griffith, who had never been far away and who was still Hon. Secretary of the Ridley Old Boys' Association and one of its representatives on the Board of Directors, was persuaded by Dr. Miller in mid-1911 to leave his post at Trinity College where he taught French and to return to Ridley's staff. The arrangement was only possible through the generosity of President George H. Gooderham to permit the creation of a new appointment for him, suggested by Dr. Miller. Mr. Griffith was appointed vice-principal, and headmaster of the Upper School, on the same basis of authority as that of Mr. Williams, headmaster of the Lower School and vice-principal since 1897.

It did not alter Dr. Miller's control of college administration or his authority over academic policy; he would be relieved of much day-to-day detail in the management of the Upper School by Mr. Griffith.

While on Trinity's staff, Mr. Griffith had created an outstanding reputation as a skilled football coach; he was loaned by Trinity to be honorary coach of Varsity's football team. T. A. Reed's *The Blue and White* records:

With the 1907 season appear names which will go down in football history. First, a young professor of French at Trinity College, Harry Griffith, undertook the duties of coach. The coaching was of a new type, but it aimed at initiative and sportsmanship and inculcating those very principles which should be inseparable in a college team. . . . "He never knew the signals," one of his young players once said, "but his motto, tackle hard, tackle low and tackle often, if we heard it once we heard it one hundred times." . . . The following year, 1908, Varsity, captained by 'Moon' Lee, won the three Intercollegiate Championships and only youth and inexperience prevented them from winning the Dominion

Crown. But the next year, 1909, with almost the same team they again won the Intercollegiate and proceeded to the Dominion final . . . and Varsity became the first holder of the Earl Grey Cup, recently donated by the Governor-General of Canada.

The season of 1910 proved a fitting climax to Mr. Griffith's career as Honorary Coach . . . winning the Earl Grey Cup for the second time.

RIDLEY'S HISTORIC FOOTBALL COME-BACK

THE predominant subject of student talk as the College re-assembled for each Michaelmas term in September was always football – the weight of the line, the speed of the backs, the strength of U.C.C. or T.C.S. or St. Andrew's, the prospects in store. Cricket was the great spring game; hockey talk would start in December, but now it was rugby, nothing but rugby. With no thought of examinations haunting them they could indulge in football gossip to their hearts' content. The debates, conjectures and predictions began as the boys came together on the Grand Trunk train or on the Toronto boat heading for St. Catharines and the new term.

This intense school interest in rugby had prevailed even during the period of Ridley's football adversity after the triumphant years of 1905 and 1906. ("The College then fell flat on its football face, year after year, and there was nothing we could apparently do about it.") But now Ridley's football fortune was to change, and if the value of football to a boys' school was ever doubted it was dispelled in the mercurial rise of Ridley's school spirit each autumn between 1911 and 1914.

The long drought in honours for the Ridley footballers did not look to be coming to an end in 1911; early in September it still appeared that the bleak stretch since the last championship year of 1906 would go on and on. Only two old colours were left from the 1910 team, and those who won their colours before the season of 1911 opened, looked to be too light. They all looked too light. (Average weight of the team: 138½ lb.) But Harry Griffith was back to coach and confidence mounted fast; they lacked a first-class punter, but the line was holding well against the Scrubs, and their backs were improving every time out. Harry Griffith, with Micky Flynn assisting, taught new plays and fired their spirit. Mill Jarvis, as captain, worked so hard he inspired the rest to furious effort.

Using discretion, only three games were scheduled in 1911 for their determined come-back attempt; they played no preliminary matches before meeting their three rivals in the Little Big Four. It was felt this light team could not be expected to stand up through a long, hard schedule.

The whole school was packed along the sidelines of their own football field as Ridley defeated Upper Canada in their first outing. Laddie Cassels went

over for a try in the first quarter, with hope rising in the orange-and-black supporters. In the second quarter Jarvis bucked over the line and Cassels converted, giving them a lead of 13-0 at the end of the half. By now Ridley could see victory looming, and the third quarter was played in a rising and falling tumult of sound. The great game ended in a win for Ridley, 20-13, with Hugh Gall and Reddy (E. G.) Dixon from Varsity officiating.

It was a wonderful victory for it seemed a portent. Ridley later lost to St. Andrew's, 21-10, and also lost to T.C.S., 16-2, played on Varsity's campus, but not even this second set-back in a row, a rough one, could suppress the feeling that Ridley football was on its way to great things. Mill Jarvis, their football captain, a splendid runner and fearless low, diving tackler was rated a fine tactician, but he would be gone before the 1912 season. Yet the football reporter saw great promise in those who would be left. He made detailed comments on them: Laddie Cassels (left inside) was called a tower of strength with great things expected of him; he would likely be captain; Geoffrey Marani (right half), expected to be very strong; Archie Mix (quarter back) was predicted to become one of the great Ridley quarters in his second year; C. K. C. Martin (left half), C. Thistlewaite, J. Salway, A. Torre, all on the scrim line, were sure to improve, and H. F. Sneed (right outside) was light, fast and fearless and certain to be a great asset in 1912.

This was indeed a powerful base for Ridley's next football team, but it is unlikely that neither the football reporter (who was Mr. Griffith) nor Laddie Cassels, the captain, realized that it would be an historic team in 1912, one that would be recalled for years by Ridley Old Boys in their rugby reminiscences. It was indeed a great team, given inspired leadership by Laddie Cassels, and it does not detract from their fame to note that their high place in Ridley's rugby history was reached principally because they represented the great come-back, the transformation in Ridley's rugby fortunes to glorious victory after five years of defeat.

Once again Harry Griffith's policy in 1912 was not to waste energy and risk injuries by playing a long series of warm-up games, but to gamble they could reach their peak of fitness and team cohesion in practice and then to give all they had against their rivals of the Little Big Four. They played only one preliminary game, against Trinity College, beating them 31-5 and escaping injuries. Then they tackled their three rival schools on three Saturdays in a row – *and downed them one after another in glorious succession!*

The first game was against T.C.S. at Varsity Stadium on October 26. It was a stiff, hard game with the final result in doubt to the very end. It was 1-0 at the end of the first quarter; then it was Ridley 8, T.C.S. 10, with two minutes to go in the half when Cassels bucked over the line: Ridley 13, T.C.S. 10. At three-quarter time it was 14-10. T.C.S. then crept closer through rouges, but they fell short by 1 point. The final score: Ridley 14, T.C.S. 13. ("Many

hard-fought games have taken place between T.C.S. and Ridley; none was ever more so than this one. A large crowd saw one of the finest games ever played at Toronto.”)

The U.C.C. game was bitterly fought at Upper Canada from the moment Ridley won the toss and kicked off. Ridley won 10-6, by their strong first-half play, with no points scored in the second half. Cassels bucked over for both Ridley tries, neither of them converted. The points by U.C.C. were all from rouges. With the tough Upper Canada team defeated, all of Ridley – young and old – held their breath. One game to go!

This was still the day of the wedge, the massed buck, but Cassels and Mix, the quarterback, were trying to keep their game open. The tactic worked, even against St. Andrew’s, leading exponent of the mass-attack, with their famous 1000-lb. buck. Ridley was consistently spectacular with low, diving and flying tackles. It was their forte.

That last game (at Ridley) against St. Andrew’s either saw Ridley inspired to a peak of invincibility or the St. Andrew’s team was much weaker than the year before. Ridley won 33-18 in a game played in ideal football weather, but which was never in doubt from the moment Cassels hurtled over the line for Ridley’s first 5 points in the first quarter. Cassels went over again in the second quarter, with Duffield then making a sensational 40-yard run for still another touchdown. St. Andrew’s massed buck got them nowhere. Ridley’s fearless tacklers dived into them to get the ball carrier again and again. The score by the boys from Toronto were all from running plays.

“Taken all in all,” said the reserved football reporter, “the team of 1912 can go down in history as a worthy rival of those giants of former days, the teams of 1905 and 1906.”

He was too reserved; this was one of the great Ridley teams of all time. He gave much credit to Laddie Cassels: “Always had the confidence of his team, and inspired them when it meant much in a game. To him in a large measure is due the success of the team.”

Great credit was certainly also due to Mr. Griffith’s coaching. His knowledge of football was hard to match in Canada and his pet theory about hard, low, diving tackles proved itself. Mr. Micky Flynn had assisted Mr. Griffith; Mr. Claude Pascoe and Mr. C. E. H. Thomas had worked tirelessly with the Scrub team; all deserved a share of the glory.

The Football Champions of 1912 –

Hamilton Cassels, captain (left inside) – “A very strong wing and a tower of strength to the line. Always had the confidence of his team and inspired them when it meant much. . . .”

G. R. Marani (right half) – second year – “A splendid kick, a sure catch and a fast, heady runner.”

A. St. C. Gordon (centre half) – second year – “Showed more improvement

than any other boy on the team. His work in the T.C.S. match stamped him as one of the best halves Ridley has ever had."

A. E. Mix (quarter) – second year – "Clever runner and a sure tackler. Played his signals well. On several occasions he saved the ball when its loss might have been disastrous. He ranks with the best quarter-backs in the history of the School."

C. Thistlethwaite (right scrim) – second year – "Played his position well and held the centre tight. A very valuable man."

J. Salway (centre scrim) – second year – "One of the fastest men on the line. Good hands. Good combination work."

A. Torre (right middle) – second year – "A splendid tackler, fast on the ball, and the best plunger in the line."

H. F. Sneed (right outside) – second year – "By long odds the fastest man on the line and the surest tackler. Ridley has never had a cleverer, more eager or valuable outside."

W. L. Duffield (right inside) – First year – "Good tackler and ball carrier. Gave great service in both attack and defence."

H. S. Gooderham (left scrim) – First year – "One of the hardest workers on the line. Fast in following down and strong in defence."

J. F. Manley (left inside) – First year – "Improved as season went on. Played position well. Very valuable next year."

J. H. N. Drope (left half) – First year – "Good punter, good hands. Did splendid work."

L. W. Nicholson (left middle) – First year – "Particularly strong in bucking and close-in work."

T. Tucker (left half) – First year – "Played in T.C.S. match, and awarded colours for his good work, and well deserved the recognition."

In 1913 the inspiration welling up from the 1912 victory marked every Ridley footballer on all levels, and not the least of course the young aspirants for a coveted football colour. When the new team was built, their spirit was so strong that only their inexperience thwarted them in achieving a second championship. Only two old colours were left, and the effect of the loss of such powerful players as Cassels, Torre, Sneed, Thistlethwaite and Salway was bound to be severe. They were also a lighter team. But they still had Geoff Marani who was 1913 football captain, the redoubtable St. Clair Gordon, and the courageous Archie Mix who only weighed 130 pounds. They came very close to a second championship because some wonderful first-year colours came up, boys like the hard-playing Doug Weld who "always gave everything he had", J. H. Peters and Gordon mi and Morton ma, who were still only sixteen years of age.

With vigorous coaching by Mr. Griffith the new colours polished their tackling – always low and hard – and despite being too light a strong line was developed. The backs were so effective that the football reporter declared: "It is a long time since Ridley had as strong a combination back of the line. Their catching and punting were above average."

If they failed to repeat as champions it was not from lack of drilling or sheer try; they probably played over their heads. The reporter said: "No champions ever played a cleverer or more scientific game." This was their substitute for weight and experience. Six first-year men probably spelled too much inexperience, despite the brilliance and fighting spirit of Doug Weld and others of those first-year men. They defeated T.C.S. 29-8 and U.C.C. 22-5, the latter at Ridley, and looked all over the champions again when they encountered an inspired and much heavier St. Andrew's team in bad weather and treacherous footing. They lost in the last quarter (9-15) after leading at the half. That was a heartbreaker to lose.

The autumn of '13 was still highly successful, despite this reverse, and so was that of 1914, with the Great War several weeks old when the football season opened. The tremendous popularity of football at Ridley can be seen in the seventy-five boys from Upper School who turned out for practice and also in the fact that in the fall of 1914 no less than six Ridley teams had matches with outside clubs. In one sense this extensive participation was more important than glory for the School team, which first defeated U.C.C., 25-7 and then eked out a win by a single point over T.C.S. But they were again well beaten by St. Andrew's (6-40) who were now fielding their most powerful teams in years.

Mickey (V. R.) Irvine was Ridley's 1914 captain, playing the new position, flying wing. Considering that it was only his second year on the team and that he had only two old colours in addition to himself (Turnbull and Porter ma) and that both were also only second-year men, the brilliant scholar from Wyoming, and Ridley's coach, together achieved a marvellous job with a team which was so predominantly composed of first-year colours.

This 1914 team deserves a bit of special reminiscence. Their three old colours – Irvine, Turnbull and Porter ma – seemed to run into injuries as if they were accident-prone. In the first school game only two were fit enough to play; in the second (against St. Andrew's) only two were again in the starting line-up, and Porter ma was injured by stopping a formidable mass-play in the first five minutes; and in the third Turnbull was still so badly bruised from the earlier games that he could not dress, and both Irvine and Porter ma were forced to retire through aggravated bumps and strains in the first few minutes.

They were not accident-prone; football was a tough game in these days. It was still the time of the flying wedge, or form-up buck, and of course particularly St. Andrew's "1000-pound buck".

"Irvine's courage in the St. Andrew's game will be long remembered in the school," said the football reporter later which would be applauded by all spectators and called an under-statement. He weighed about 130 pounds, but he was first to try and stop the dangerous 1000-pound buck. It was working so ferociously well that Ridley's Old Boys declared the team was lucky to hold

St. Andrew's to the 40-6 score and that it had been largely due to Irvine's personal courage.

St. Andrew's rivals declared their Juggernaut was making bull-force a principal factor in football, but as they all had a massed-wedge or its variation, their criticisms were a bit specious. Ridley used a form-up buck behind the line; any number of players might form into a column, with the ball carried by the front man, and on the signal the massed wedge would hit the line like a battering ram. If Ridley's battering ram did not have the overpowering impact of St. Andrew's 1000-pound buck, it can be seen that rugby in these days was indeed a rugged pastime. But football was changing; kicking was becoming more and more of a factor, and the emphasis was swinging to running the ball. (*Postscript*: Ridley abolished its form-up buck behind the line in 1915 and with the other three schools helped to lead the reformation of rugby in Canada. A two-man tandem buck was "legal" until the 1950s.)

The big event of each post-football season was, of course, the Cross-Country Run, generally staged in wet, cold weather, with stamina rather than speed the principal test. The senior winners between 1911 and 1914 were Steele (in a tough race which saw Smoot Mavor take a bad fall); Farmer (who defeated Jack Leach); Crossland (whose time was slower than the intermediate winner's, Leigh) and Woodruff, the scratch man in 1914. The handicapping was now done by rule-of-age for the Lower School; each boy was allowed fifteen seconds' start for each year of age under the scratch man.

Despite the fact that the runners did the work, they often felt the race was only an excuse for the Cross-Country supper which always followed and which never failed to provide a great consolidation of Ridley school spirit not long before they left for home and their Christmas holidays.

THE CADET CORPS' NEW PRESTIGE

IT WAS during these immediate pre-war years that Ridley's Cadet Corps was developed from a dubious start in 1907 into one of the most important institutions of Ridley. The transformation we have already stressed was indeed remarkable. Before war broke out the corps was perhaps the most honoured of all institutions, with many respected and admired boys of the School in its uniform. In addition, it had experienced an equally striking transformation in its efficiency. In 1907 the cadets had to learn the rudiments of rifle drill from scratch, even if the old drill-squads had made them familiar with forming fours, and to do it with cut-down, pre-South African Lee Enfields which were awkward to handle as well as obsolete. Now they had new, smart if heavy Ross rifles with a modern breech and could not only respond with commendable snap and rhythm to the command *Present Arms!* but could do

company drill and had even skirmished across their green fields to practise the new system of tactical training, said to be demanded by the machine-gun.

Further, although there were much older cadet formations in the province, the Ridley Cadet Corps had been told it could consider itself as efficient as any corps in Ontario. Much of their efficiency was due to their own enthusiasm; more could be attributed to Col. Thairs and his choice of commanders. Both cadets and their instructor were inordinately pleased by this terse compliment in the official inspection report of 1911:

“Officers: all good, smart in drill.

“Rank and file: general appearance and
physique very good.

“Instructor: very keen and hard working.”

The officers now wore swords, hung from the cadet-form of a Sam Browne belt.

The Cadets were informed that June they could go under canvas at Niagara-on-the-Lake militia camp – at their own expense – if a sufficient number volunteered to form a respectable Ridley detachment. The Headmaster expected ten or twelve might go. Instead, forty-two boys promptly volunteered and stayed behind when the rest went home after Prize Day.

They were transported by train and found their bell tents already erected and waiting beside the lines of the Governor-General's Body Guards from Toronto. One military blanket and a rubber sheet on the hard ground found them stiff on the first morning, but they were so enamoured with the bugle calls, the martial music of the bands, the marching men, the colour and bustle and stir of the big military camp, that they never noticed such petty discomfort. Old Boy D. H. C. Mason had sent a Q.O.R. bugler to be attached to them, so they had their own *Reveille* and *Lights Out*, and that first evening no smarter young soldiers swanked through the streets of Niagara-on-the-Lake, each carrying a snapping swagger stick. Perhaps the ice cream they sampled inspired it, or else it was just sheer high spirits, but they startled early-to-bed G.G.B.G.s by giving the Ridley Yell on their return to camp. There was hint of tossing the “sassy schoolboys” in a blanket in retaliation, but the Ridley cadets closed ranks, looked defiant. Nothing happened.

Acta commented a bit carelessly that no other cadet corps in Canada had attended a militia camp, but at Carlings Heights at London that same year a great cadet camp was simultaneously created, with the cadet corps of many public schools of Western Ontario represented. They came from Windsor, Guelph, Hamilton, Owen Sound and several other centres. The cadet movement was flourishing all across Canada, if more generally in the public, not the high schools. Ridley could have boasted with justification of a corps com-

prised of taller, older, heavier and perhaps more efficient cadets than could be found elsewhere in the province, except perhaps in the other independent preparatory schools.

The cadets were rather surprised to find they were always bored by the "tactical exercise" carried out on each annual inspection, which was a little early to discover that boredom is the principal reaction of a man in the ranks during any and all sham-battles. General Cotton watched their "attack" against imaginary trenches in front of the Upper School, and it is doubtful if even Cadet Captain Jarvis, Cadet Lieutenants Cronyn and Leach or Cadet Sergeants Ferdie Marani and Wilfrid Mavor learned much about tactics. But there were many compensations. It was always impressive to attend a drum-head service in Montebello Park with the St. Catharines regiments on their annual church parade; and the shooting at McNab ranges was a coveted outing, if complicated by the vagaries of weather and the use of the targets by Militia regiments. Their intense preoccupation with making a score of at least fifty per cent on the miniature range in the rink, testified to the attraction of McNab; they had to make this score to qualify for the big ranges at McNab and an opportunity to win the silver mounted Ross rifle, still presented annually to the top Ridley marksman by the I.O.D.E.

What they needed most was a band, even a bugle or two, and at least one drum to lift their step. It was Cadet Captain Ferdie Marani, who succeeded to command of the Corps in 1912, who did something about it; he established the first Ridley bugle band. At first they had only four bugles (two donated by the Old Boys) and four side drums. Their Officer Commanding at once discovered that blowing a bugle takes much practice, and that only some boys can pace a marching step properly on a drum, but he found great help from Bugle-sergeant Streeter, loaned by the 19th Regiment. By the time the Corps staged its first public parade in the spring of 1912 a base drum was added, with little Ernie Crossland beating it. He was so small he could hardly see over the top of the drum while marching, but he was a fine drummer.

The new Bugle Band was the addition the Corps needed. Its size and the number of instruments grew steadily. Starting with 1912 the discordant squalls of a beginner on the bugle or trumpet has been heard ever since during each Ridley spring.

This was the proudest year to date for the Corps. They were invited to go under canvas at Long Branch rifle ranges in August where the tents were at once festooned with gay patches of orange and black hanging on the guy ropes. They were to train for an appearance before the vast throngs attending the Canadian National Exhibition. It meant sacrificing part of their summer holidays, but a fine detachment of cadets under Cadet Capt. Marani assembled at Long Branch from their homes on Monday, August 19. They were told it would be all work and no play except perhaps a swim in the lake. And

it was! A huge muster of Empire cadets was taking place, and there would be stiff competition at the C.N.E. They drilled and drilled.

On Saturday, August 24, the Long Branch camp was broken up, and they marched along the Lakeshore Road to go under canvas again in the C.N.E. grounds. They still drilled and drilled, with the parade-square bellow of Sergt. Turner of the R.C.R. now added to the bark of their own Sergt. Gellateley. Every evening they took part in a military exercise in front of the grandstand. The cheers helped, but the Ridley contingent still drilled in the mornings because competitions were held in the afternoons between the Australian, New Zealand and Canadian cadet groups – marching, ceremonial drill, physical exercises with and without rifles. There were some complaints about the food, the incessant work and the unsatisfactory C.N.E. camp, but Cadet Captain Marani realized later this was largely cadet-style army grousing. They were enjoying themselves.

Ridley did not win a contest trophy; the Corps was fifth; but they were the first Canadian team in marching and manual exercises, which was the next proudest thing.

Some of the cadets at the C.N.E. under Cadet Capt. Marani were: T. R. Merritt; M. Andrews; Tom Tucker; J. L. Scatcherd; H. M. Grassett; C. C. S. Montgomery; T. Jenckes; H. Peters; F. Sneed; J. L. Salway; Ed Thairs; H. S. Gooderham; J. H. Ingersoll and G. R. Marani. (*Postscript*: It is tragic to recall that five of this handful of Ridley boys would be killed-in-action in the coming war: Hugh Grassett, J. H. Ingersoll, Clark Montgomery, John Scatcherd and Ed Thairs.)

The C.N.E. staged a jaunt to Niagara Falls for all cadets as a reward; the Australians and New Zealanders all took the trip, but the Ridley contingent had seen Niagara Falls; besides they needed a rest, and they got it aboard Mr. Gooderham's yacht, *Oriole III*.

They were proud young soldiers at Ridley throughout the whole of 1912, with Cadet Captain Marani proudest of all; the Annual Cadet Inspection Report of Military District No. 2 judged the Ridley Cadet Corps *the best of all those inspected in Ontario in the year*.

It was the same in 1913. General Lessard inspected them, accompanied by Capt. W. R. Marshall, the Inspecting Officer for M.D. No. 2. The General expressed himself as "admiring and delighted" with their smartness. Cadet Capt. Hamilton Cassels was in command that year of an efficient and extremely well-drilled Corps. General Lessard made a stirring recruiting speech; the militia had vacancies which "the Ridley cadets could fill admirably". By the next annual inspection, the dark cloud of war would be gathering, and soon the recruiting speeches would be for officers and men for the fighting services.

In 1913 Capt. Marshall, the Inspecting Officer, had held the same opinion

he had expressed in 1912. He wrote Col. Thairs on December 9: "Your Corps was away ahead of any I inspected. . . . I must congratulate you on having such a splendid all-around company. Think you should now organize a Second Company . . . you have plenty of boys. . . ." (*Postscript*: Lt.-Col. W. R. Marshall of Hamilton, as C.O., 15th Battalion, 48th Highlanders, was killed in 1916 in the Ypres Salient while several cadets he inspected at Ridley in 1912 and 1913 were serving under his command.)

There was further well-deserved satisfaction for Col. Thairs in this letter in 1914 from R. M. McLeod ('95), who was a militia officer at Winnipeg: "You might mention to Col. Thairs that the erstwhile captain of the drill squad of '96 captured the trophy for having the most efficient infantry company in Military District No. 10 last season. . . . The first rudiments and the liking for the game are due to Col. Thairs' instruction in the old back yard."

A definite feeling that war was coming existed among the senior staff officers of both Britain and Canada. It was reflected in the Military Colleges and thence into the Militia units. It must have been felt at Ridley, if only vaguely. When Arthur Bishop, Wilfrid Mavor and Clark Montgomery of Ridley passed their R.M.C. examinations in 1912, it was doubtful if they could enter; R.M.C. only had thirty-six vacancies available for the whole of Canada. Nine Ridley Old Boys were already attending R.M.C. The three were admitted. In the spring of 1914, all Ridleians were congratulating Arthur Leonard Bishop on his rare honour of being named Battalion Sergeant Major at R.M.C. It meant Arthur Bishop would be the equivalent of Head Boy at R.M.C. for his final year. He was the first, but not the last Ridleian to achieve the distinction. Other Ridleians doing well at R.M.C. were J. K. Cronyn, H. H. Blake, W. H. Van der Smissen and W. H. Shoenberger.

Warnings of war were not officially voiced. The arm-chair strategists were getting busy as early as 1912, of course, and their predictions were sometimes quite sound. Official spoken warnings of a war threat would have been scornfully characterized as jingoism or at least scare-mongering, for many Canadians wanted their peaceful isolation to last forever and played ostrich to the end in the vain hope that it would. Yet, that a watchful attention was on the international scene, especially on the German jack-boots crunching incessantly through Brandenburg Gate to inspire all Germany with Prussian militarism, could be seen in quiet moves to strengthen the national spirit. One had been the tour of Western Ontario by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada, who visited Ridley in the late spring of 1914, not long before the outbreak of war. It was an unusual tour, and if it did not directly reflect the growing tension in Europe, the warmth of loyal feeling aroused proved its worth. The Duke was accompanied by Princess Patricia (after whom a new Canadian regiment was named a very few weeks later). The Royal party were met on Ridley's green, spotless lawn by Dr. Miller and

Nannette, taking her mother's place as hostess at the following garden party. Tiny Kitty Miller presented flowers to Princess Pat on behalf of the School with delightful composure. It was probably not the garden party but the Cadet Corps which won the honours of the day, or felt they did, for they formed their first Royal Guard of Honour. The Duke of Connaught was by far the most distinguished inspecting officer ever to examine the shine on their boots and the stiff straightness of their backs with a critical eye. The Duke's compliments seemed more sincere than the usual official platitudes; Col. Thairs was beaming; it was his way when his cadets "did themselves proud".

In June, 1914, with the outbreak of war close ahead, the repute of Ridley's fine Cadet Corps was obviously known at headquarters in Ottawa; realizing that the Corps would surely supply many fine officers if war did come, Capt. Marshall was accompanied this time by Colonel Elliott, Assistant Adjutant-General, and a Major Sweeny, Royal Fusileers, seconded to Canadian Headquarters from the British Army. Cadet Captain Goeff Marani was Cadet C.O., and the Corps was once more warmly congratulated quite sincerely by the permanent force officers. They heard again of the need by the Canadian militia regiments for young officers of the Ridley cadet calibre.

WHILE the cadets camped at Long Branch in 1912, another group of Ridley boys headed for Parry Sound to spend anything up to seven weeks at Ridley's Summer Camp at Otter Lake. Between 1911 and 1914, the camp had increased its capacity, but it was seldom able to accommodate all the boys who wished to have the most glorious holiday Canada provides. They always came back from their summer in the outdoors fit, brown, veterans of canoe and portage with tall tales of the trail and their fishing prowess.

By the camp's second year in 1911, the Miller's log home with the great stone fireplace had been completed and an abandoned barn had been cleaned up and divided into dining room, kitchen and woodshed. Mrs. Newall, caterer and cook, presided over this essential adjunct, and the memory of her fresh bread and hot biscuits could make many an Old Boy's mouth water forty and fifty years later. Her companions were a black and white "country collie", called Ridley, and a long, lanky black-spotted white Tomcat, nicknamed Dean's House. The cat slept under the steps and waged intermittent war with Ridley.

The sleeping cabins had one wide side open, covered by copper screen to thwart the night-mosquitoes. The daily itinerary was simple: 7 a.m. reveille; a swim; make up beds; breakfast; prayers – and then a boy was as free as the hawk he tried to knock over with a catapult, or the pair of stately herons which flew lazily over each morning.

There were lots of canoes, a rowboat and a launch, the *Spindrift*. Sergt.

Williams gave lessons in swimming and boatmanship. The wharves would be damaged each spring by ice, but a local farm handyman would have them in shape in time for Ridley's next invasion. There were three canoe routes across to Georgian Bay, each with tough portages, so the embryo northland explorers would be first taken on a two- or three-day trip via Salmon Lake – Clear Lake – Blackstone Lake – and back to Otter, because the overland stretches were just enough to teach boys how to portage the canoes.

At night there would be sing-songs and taffy-pulls around the campfire; then sleep came to the night sounds of the woods. In the day there were bass and pike to be caught; there were wigwams to be built and the bush to explore, beaver to watch, pestiferous bears to chase away; there was a level patch for tennis and baseball; sometimes there were exciting and threatening bushfires, with the boys helping the fire rangers. And always there were rich memories to take back to school in September and, often, to be savoured for many years. (*Postscript*: In 1914 Ridley's student camp was converted into a fresh-air camp for underprivileged boys, with Ridley collections taken up in chapel to support it. Both Old Boys and members of Ridley's staff would look after the boys who were chosen by Canon Dixon of Toronto. In 1917 this social-service endeavour was considered no longer feasible by the social service agencies, and for a time it reverted to its old role as a students' camp. The campsite was sold years later by Mr. Gooderham, who was the actual owner, not Ridley, as several Old Ridleians still believe.)

The attendance at Ridley was now at a record peak, with a few more than 160 boarders in both schools. Owing to the large numbers in the upper two forms several Fifth Formers had to live in dormitories starting with the Michaelmas term in 1911. One upper dormitory was divided into two rooms, with four Fifth boys in each, but this was as close as they could come to providing separate rooms. Another innovation was the conversion of the old basement gymnasium into a large night-study room, but this did not help the boarding accommodation. The temptation was strong to launch another building programme, but it was resisted between 1911 and 1914. "At present a larger school is not desired," was the decision.

One reason for the continued popularity of Ridley was a development which gave great satisfaction to Dr. Miller for it proved the worth of his academic policies and the teaching methods of Ridley. That was the steady success of Ridleians in university and R.M.C. examinations. Throughout the years 1911 to 1914 such comments as this constantly appeared in *Acta Ridleiana*: "We extend congratulations to the following: Murray Wrong and Harold Wrong who have graduated with first-class honours in Classics; Gerald Blake, first-class in English and history and second-class in Classics; Eric Macdougall, who graduated with honours in Forestry; W. L. Scandrett and J. P. Alexander, who gained honours."

There was more applause in 1914 for Old Ridleians who successfully passed

at university: "Laddie Cassels, Babe Carley, Ferdie Marani, Geoff Heighington and C. K. C. Martin all passed their examinations. (The latter had won two scholarships to Trinity.) Gerald Blake is now a B.A. and will enter Osgoode Hall. Norman Daniel has finished his third year at S.P.S."

It may seem a far cry from scholarship, but there had been an unexpected physical change at Ridley which was at least intended to keep students healthy by feeding them lots of fresh milk. Perhaps it was the result of long planning by the Headmaster, but to observers Ridley seemed to create its own farm and establish a Holstein milk-cow herd almost overnight. The Ridley land which had been leased to the St. Catharines Golf Club came back to the College, and by 1911 grain was growing from the 4th to the 17th hole. In 1912 a herd of fine Holstein cows were grazing in a pasture where the 1st to the 3rd holes and greens had been. So many hundreds of new shrubs and young trees had been planted that the conversion of the golf links to a dairy farm did not spoil Ridley's beautiful landscape. And the supply of their own fresh milk would be valuable. A modern dairy barn with the latest equipment was erected and in operation, and in another year they had Violet.

Dr. Miller was extremely proud of Ridley's prize milk-producer, Violet. Apparently Sir Henry Pellatt, long a friend of Ridley's, was also an admirer of Violet, for he wrote Dr. Miller just before Prize Day: "I have to go to Montreal, but hope to return on Thursday, in which case I expect to be able to be with you on Friday to milk the cow. I am very partial to Holsteins . . ."

Whether or not Sir Henry and Dr. Miller shed their top hats after Prize Day's proceedings in order to visit the barn and pay a call on Violet is not recorded, but they probably did.

The farm was another reason why "outside detention" was so shunned there were long stretches of remarkably good behaviour. There were weeds and grass to be cut, stones to be piled, shrubs to be moved, and forks and hoes to be swung. The farm flourished, even though the delinquents didn't think much of it.

IN AN article aptly titled *Reminiscences*, an unknown author recalled boys, masters and events at Ridley between 1903 and the start of the Kaiser's War as a feature for the 50th Anniversary issue. It was a cavalcade of memories over a particularly fascinating stretch of Ridley years. As a review now seems fitting, that wealth of condensed nostalgia will conjure many a wonderful recollection for boys of these inspiring pre-war years:

"Passing Thoughts, 1903-1914" The old Lower School . . . Charlie Griffiths . . . Mrs. McKenzie . . . Mr. Prideaux . . . Mr. Delmado and his glider, the first flying machine in this part of the country . . . too bad somebody cut the guide wires . . . Bill Jarvis and his advice to Ussher to

'Keep cool' after he had fallen through the ice on the Lower School pond . . . and Bill's advice to Mr. Williams that a 'coquette is a sort of fish-ball, Sir.' Art Lee cleans up on Frenchy Smythe . . . remember Frenchy and his wild rides over the fields on Gunpowder (the one-horsepower mower)? The old rink with its roof demolished by cyclone.

"The golf course . . . the swimming crib in the canal . . . the float . . . the *Persia* coming up the canal to the Kinleith Mills . . . the fire . . . Demill . . . the new School . . . the football teams of '05 and '06 . . . the arrival of Archie Mix, two foot nothing, all alone from California, unheralded, unknown, and unexpected . . . the Leaks . . . Harry Hotspur Hammond and his Scripture lessons: 'Come on, now, Leaks, dammit, let's have the 23rd Psalm' . . . Harry's walks and talks with Dr. Miller and how he sold the idea of his heart-broken mother . . . Harry won the speaking prize with no effort whatever . . . Ed. Riselay breaks his wrist on sports day . . . Windy Vickers nicks his head in falling three floors in the Lower School . . . Ussher slashes Skinny Roberts in the wrist . . . Monk and his fiddle . . . Dobbie and the Neanderthal Man . . . 'You wretched Leaycrafts' . . . The sixth form walk-out on Mr. Thomas . . . The fifth form are caned for throwing bread at tea. The School rushes Mark Hanna at the dining room door – 'Get back, boys!' Windy Miller and Beak play hockey with Mark in the Wing . . . Beak and his quick lunch . . . not quite quick enough for E. G. P.

"Dick Cronyn and the 'Trades' . . . Smitty and Chubby Lennard Pat Murphy in the fourth form cupboard . . . 'Some water, Mr. Kirkland!' . . . 'You schilly Schasage' . . . Mr. Gore-Sellon . . . the Colonel . . . 'Smoke' . . . Wahaw . . . Trumbull Carey and the fight with Dud Gordon . . . Highfield . . . Lake Lodge . . . Binns Salway and the lights go out . . . the Agadir incident, Kirky's sleep disturbed . . . Dr. Miller's grammar classes . . . Josh Billings and 'Eat, you brute' . . . 'Get wise, Noxon' . . . 'Don't say "ANNIE did", say "AND HE did"' . . . 'What's the matter, can't a fellow worship?' The new boys' concerts . . . Gauntlets and piano wires . . .

"The new Gym, 1910 . . . the windmill and the swimming-pool . . . Spike Andrews skips cheering practice, gets mauled in the library by the prefects until H. C. G. appears . . . The old St. Patrick day scraps . . . Smoot and his one and only tie . . . baseball with Nan on first . . . the heavyweight bout between Laddie and Windy . . . the David-Steele fight Geo. Hazen, 'Hey, you, the whistle's blowed' . . . 'Are there any more milk?' . . . Laddie's team stops the rot of '06-'12 . . . Cassels, Marani, Merritt 'DID NOT BAT'. And so on, ad infinitum.

"Do you remember in the fall of 1913? . . . There were only five buildings at Ridley – the main Upper School building, Dean's House, the old rink, the old gym and the old Lower School . . . work began on Dr. Miller's house north of the steps . . . The football team lost out to St. Andrew's . . . Geoff Marani was captain, and on it were Bill Gordon, Archie Mix, Fent Sneed, Jack Manley, Harold Drope, Soup Nicholson, Mickie Irvine (123 pounds), Eric Boyd, Pup Morton, Henry Peters, Dud Gordon, Gus Porter and Doug Weld . . . It was a sixth form privilege to wear an orange and black fez.

THE GRACIOUS RIDLEY SCENE

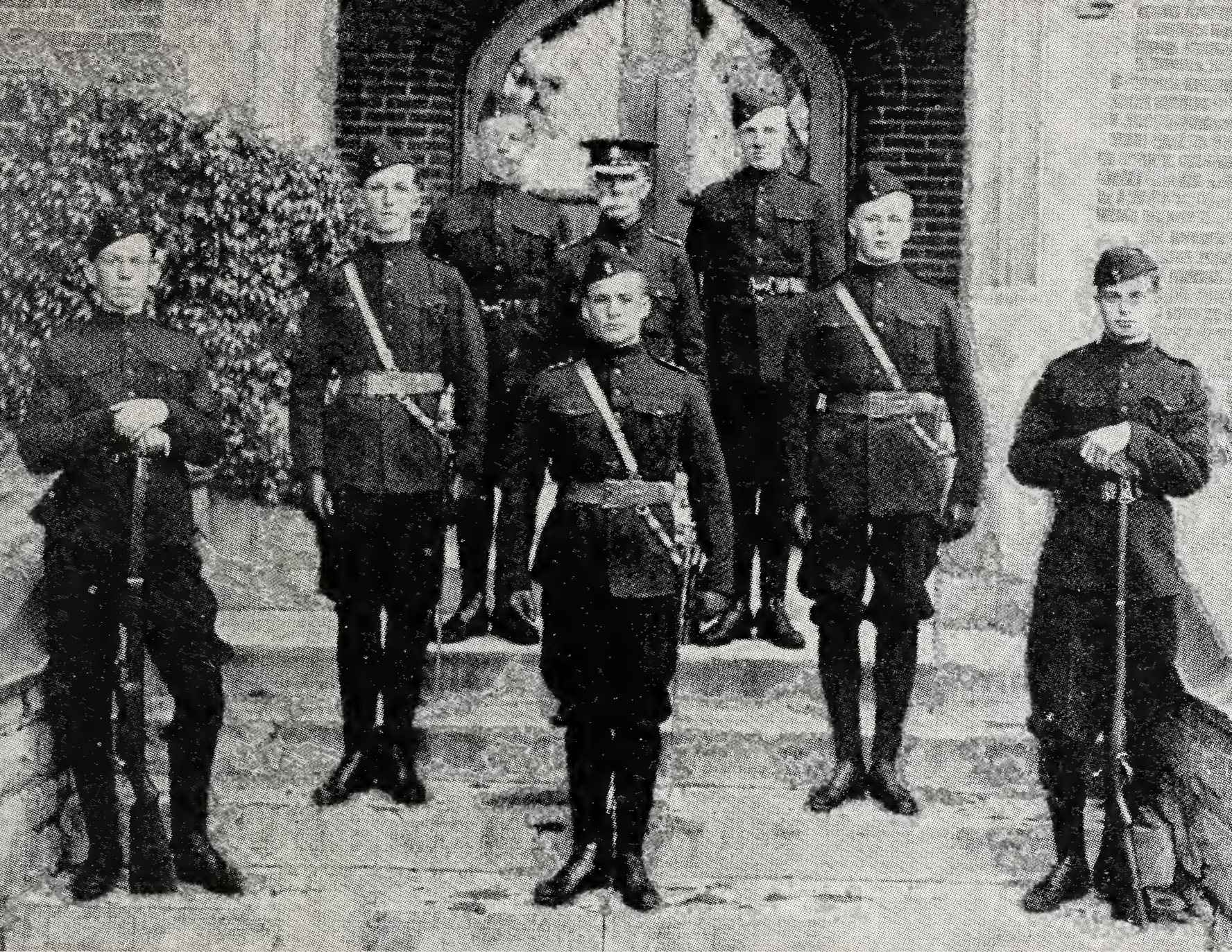
WHEN Dr. Miller moved into a new Headmaster's House in March, 1914, the physical development of Ridley to an impressive institution of beauty and spaciousness had already been achieved. The new residence, for which the generosity of President George H. Gooderham and his brother, Ross, had been responsible, merged beautifully into the college scene.

The College had been transformed in appearance in a few short years. At the turn of the century when Her Majesty Queen Victoria died, Ridley lived in a converted sanatorium at the edge of St. Catharines, with but a single building beyond the canal. But when Ridley mourned the death of Edward the Peacemaker in 1910, and hailed the new king, a cluster of buildings beyond the canal on Western Hill had become Ridley College.

The Lower School, Nicholls' Hall, the Upper School or School House, destined to be the core of the modern Ridley, the Dean's House and the new gymnasium had been built in that order. *Acta Ridleiana* was justifiably self-congratulatory: "This group of buildings makes a more superior equipment for the work of our institution than could be found elsewhere in the whole land. And care of ground has gone hand-in-hand with new buildings. Trees have been planted, shrubs and climbers placed where they will best add to the beauty of Ridley."

The new Headmaster's House fitted so well into this atmosphere that its newness was hardly noticeable. Situated just to the north of the flight of steps leading down to the canal it commanded a beautiful view up and down the waterway and looked across to St. Catharines. Designed by Sproatt and Rolph, architects of Toronto, it was considered a splendid example of collegiate architecture. It inspired *Acta* to write nostalgically of the gradual development of the physical College: "Looking back on these various achievements, we are sure Dr. Miller will say that when we need a thing badly, ways and means are always found to supply the needs – even if at times it may mean a very great deal of worry and a tremendous amount of hard work." Dr. Miller could certainly confirm that these elements often were heavy loads carried by a headmaster.

An historic tribute had been paid to Dr. Miller by the Old Boys in 1914. They had a magnificent portrait done of him in oils by Mr. John Russell, outstanding Canadian portrait painter of his time. It was presented to the School after the Old Boys' football game on November 22 and was formally accepted by Vice-President Ingersoll, who was eloquent in his tribute to the Headmaster and his historic contribution to the founding and development of Ridley College over its first twenty-five years. (The painting now hangs in the Great Hall.) This was Dr. Miller's tribute to the Old Boys: "As long as Ridley College continues to receive the support and encouragement of her sons, just so long will she continue to forge steadily ahead."

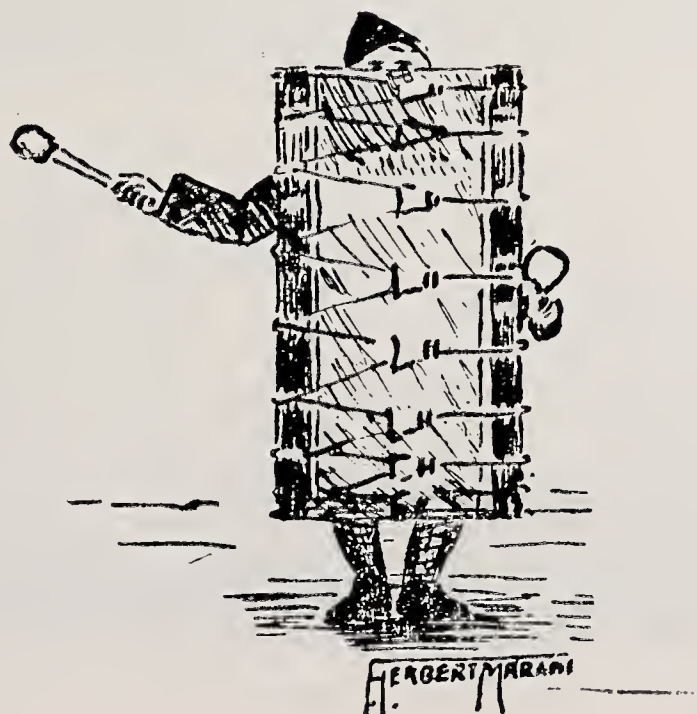


CADET CORPS OFFICERS AND N.C.Os., 1911

The leadership and example of this group of Cadet Officers and N.C.Os. (which includes the Cadet Commanders of 1911, 1912 and 1913) altered the attitude toward voluntary submission to the tedium of a parade-square, made the Cadet Corps popular, established it as an institution. *In front* (l. to r.): Cadet Sergt. Arthur L. Bishop; Cadet Capt. Bill (W. D. P.) Jarvis, who led the first summer camp, hosted the first Cadet Corps Dance; Cadet Lt. Ferdie (F. H.) Marani, C.O. in 1912, who organized the first bugle band and led the first detachment to appear before the C.N.E. grandstand. *Second row*: Cadet Lt. Kerr (J. K.) Cronyn; Lt.-Col. George Thairs, drill instructor since 1889; Cadet Lt. Jack (J. O.) Leach. *Third row*: Cadet Sergt. George S. Hamilton and Cadet Sergt. Laddie (H.) Cassels, who was Cadet Captain in 1913.

"The drum was bigger than he was!"

(Ridley's first big drummer,
little Ernie Crossland)
by F. H. Marani ('01-'12)





Ridley Camp
at Otter Lake (1912)



Scene from *The Private Secretary* (1914), first
serious school play
(Mrs. Ernie Powell; Bessie
McSloy; Ned Chandler;
Nannette Miller)



1910: Sneed wins the 100 yards

1911: Coach Harry Griffith joins Coach Micky Flynn



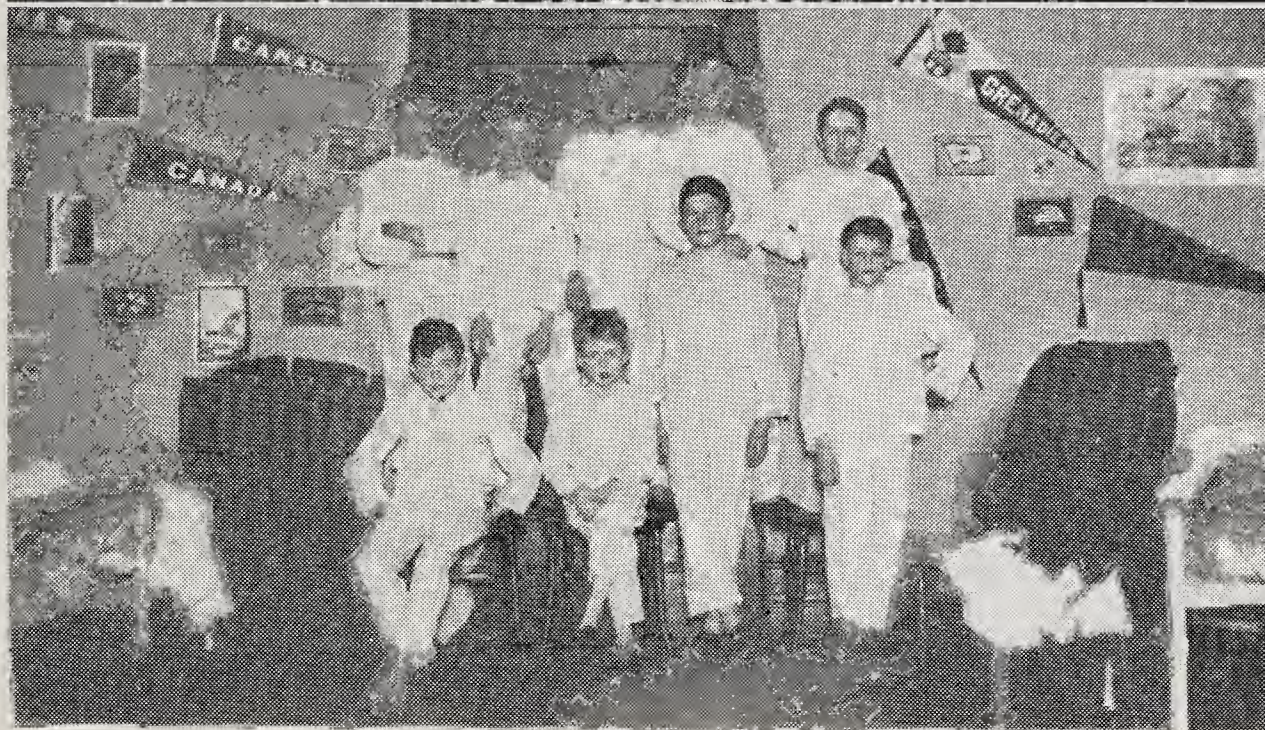
To town by
the lift bridge.

*Scenes
from the
Good
Years*

Sports' Day
Presentations (1912)



A Dormitory
Ready for Bed



Below, sports cartoons
by Wilf Heighington



The Ump

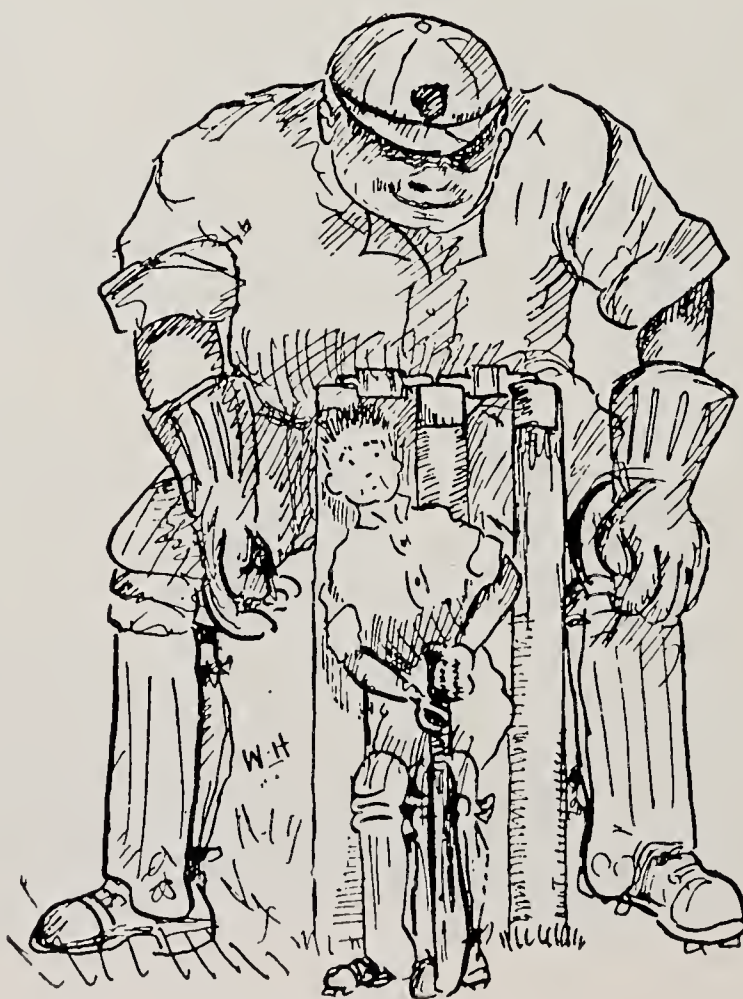


"Who's for Soccer?"



BASKETBALL, NEW AND POPULAR

Basketball had been played in Springbank's small gym, but the new gymnasium immediately added the game to Ridley's regular winter sports. Above, the School team of 1911; *front*, l. to r.: W. H. Woolworth; Mr. Micky (H. J.) Flynn; C. E. Miller, captain; Sergt. J. Williams, coach. *Back row*: G. S. Hamilton; C. N. Woolworth; W. L. Duffield; S. P. Trench and E. H. Ziegler.



The New Colour

Acta Ridleiana echoed Dr. Miller's words: "We have something better than riches in our splendid Old Boys. As we grow older their influence will grow more and more pronounced, to the undying benefit of the School."

That 1914 forecast of the role the Old Ridleians would play in the future may have been a platitude as it was written, but it was true, while underestimating the ultimate value to Ridley of her Old Boys. A vision of their actual future importance was perhaps hardly to be expected.

They would now demonstrate their value to the country by an historic demonstration of their concept of the obligations of citizenship which Ridley had taught them. It would be seen in their magnificent response to the call-to-arms.

So far as the Ridleians could immediately sense the whole of Canada was firmly, spontaneously behind Britain in her declaration of war on Germany. Ontario still largely constituted Ridley's Canada, and there was no question about the loyalty of the Anglo-Saxons they knew in their own province. They had watched these good people trying to resist the social changes since 1910 caused by pressures of spreading industrialization, and had understood their unwillingness to abandon their familiar habits of self-respecting decency and the principles by which they had been bred, to the new materialism. They had understood because this was also the Ridley way. The old loyalties had not been shaken.

The Canadian period between 1900 and 1914 had held its wrongs and evils; there was intolerance, blindness to poverty and foolish class distinctions; but the values and viewpoints of Canadians generally were those of a deeply religious people who had approved the straight-laced living of the Victorian era, if not the pomp and display. So had Ridley. As the spirit of commerce and industry had enveloped quiet little Ontario market towns, with ambitious young go-getters waving Chamber of Commerce banners, their people had tried to continue to rule their lives by the old-fashioned virtues. Rebellious young people declared that family discipline was insincere, that their personal conduct was being dictated by the restrictive fear of what people would say. Even if this were partly true, the old values were never to be surrendered entirely to materialism; they fought back even after war came in 1914 with its new pressures. As materialism rose with the impact of suddenly expanded war industry and war-inflated wages, Canadian fathers tried hard, if often vainly, to instill into their children that family respectability, personal self-respect – and scholarship, too – were still the things that mattered.

It was a brave last stand by the last of the Canadian-type Victorians, but they could not prevent the face of Central Canada from being permanently changed by the smoke of industrialization, nor could they maintain all its old moral values. The Good Years were ended. They had been good years for Ridley, too, and the regret of the Old Boys who looked back later and saw that they were gone, was for the passing of a way of Canadian life. If it was

smug and self-righteous as some sociologists say, its good attributes overshadowed all else.

Many years later when the passage of time had put former events into tranquil perspective, the Ridleians saw reasons for an even greater regret; this was the point where Ridley's way of life and that of Ontario, which had been remarkably the same, divided. Ridley carried on, still clinging steadfastly to her ideals, but this was to be much more difficult for the people of a province under the constant stress and surge of expansion.

But all this was a regret of the future. It is right to conclude this account of Ridley's last four crowded years before the Great War on a note of proud achievement and inspiring success. It had been a wonderful Ridley period. By the end of 1914, which was also the end of Ridley's first quarter-century, the College reached the highest peak it had ever attained, in both scholarship and athletics. Attendance was high, school spirit and morale were at a peak. Financially Ridley was unworried. Her landscape had grown warm and beautiful. And, scholastically, a splendid proportion of her seniors had been matriculating with honours and also winning coveted scholarships. In the 1914 examinations E. M. Boyd won the Burnside in Mathematics and also the second Edward Blake in Classics and Mathematics; F. W. Scott-Kerr was awarded the seventh Edward Blake in General Proficiency and the Bishop Strachan in Classics. Ridley was also proud to hear late in 1914 that Murray Wrong ('03-'04) had been awarded a Fellowship in History at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Neither masters nor students were prepared for the shock of momentous August 4, 1914, but Ridley was in shape to withstand any blow, including the fantastic upheaval the war caused in the quiet pattern of Canadian life and in the lives of all Ridleians, young and old. The graduates of Ridley – and many of her present seniors – responded at once to the call of the country with such resolute loyalty and in such a high proportion that it humbles this historian. It is recounted for this chronicle with pride and admiration.

Ridley and the Great War

"The clink of spurs on St. Paul Street, the rhythmic smash of heels of the marching infantry, the pulse of the bands playing martial music, still spoke of adventure and high gallantries, not suffering unspeakable."

LONG before the 1914 football season had been played out to the accompaniment of flaring headlines about Verdun and the First Battle of Ypres, it was quite clear that if Britain's war was Canada's war, it was also to be Ridley's. It was inevitable that Old Ridleians would at once start moving into the fighting services, and that this would go on so long as the war would last. No drums or bugles or patriotic speeches were needed; the mere fact of war was a summoning call to service which the honourable, the courageous and all men with a high sense of duty to the nation were first to hear, so the response of Ridleians was, of course, instant and without question; this was the way they were bred, the way they had been taught.

It was in fact so natural for Ridleians to volunteer for active service between 1914 and 1918 that they were surprised to be applauded. They had to live with themselves, so there was only one course. They had deep sympathy for those who could not go with them by reason of disabilities or some other good reason, for denied to such unfortunates was deep satisfaction in an act which was as wholly unselfish as simple patriotism itself. The opportunity to serve all-out – to stand ready to die for your country – comes to most men but once in a lifetime.

If we have mentioned signs and portents which might have warned in the spring and early summer of 1914 that the Great or Kaiser's War would burst upon the peaceful world in August, they were not seen by the busy, engrossed boys of Ridley. They were as little concerned as the complacent Canadian people themselves. The declaration of war on August 4 came while they were nearly all at their homes for the summer holidays. By the time they had reassembled in September the Battle of the Marne was being won, and excited war-talk dominated the dormitories from the first day.

On the surface Ridley seemed unchanged. Classes were re-launched; the squad of new boys braced themselves to sing their nervous initiation songs; and they all lent vociferous support to the footballers as if rugby was the most important immediate thing in a Ridleian's life. But the war was always there, a glorious, beckoning adventure, to make the 16-year-olds fume about their lack of two years and to set the still younger boys dreaming of high endeavor, while they clamoured to join the Cadet Corps regardless of size or age.

What the Headmaster did not yet understand – what no one, neither master nor student yet foresaw – was the frightful strain of the prolonged war of attrition to come. They entered 1915 with a high heart and with a brave attempt to carry on as usual, for to all of Ridley war was still only a challenge. The clink of spurs on St. Paul Street, the rhythmic smash of heels of the marching infantry, the pulse of the bands playing martial music, still spoke of high adventure, not suffering unspeakable. At Christmas, 1914, *Acta* could still say editorially: "This century is Canada's, and a golden chance appears for all who will but do their duty."

That was not a brave viewpoint for Ridley; it was still the natural one, even if it soon required great faith in the old values to speak in such a vein. By 1916 and 1917 the old glory in even a justified war had been trampled into the mud and blood of the Somme's uplands and the hideous morass of Passchendaele. War then became a black, grim shadow, a frightful challenge to the human spirit.

There were many other phases of life talked about at Ridley in these early war-days, of course. The social and political transition related to the passing of the Victorian Age was clearly almost complete, with all the old beliefs of the conservative Canadian people shaken. They felt the changing world, but if it was too soon to understand it, some sessions in the Sixth were pure political science, with the trends of government policies of all nations and their national leaderships of the past reviewed, probed and debated. The intention was to understand the background of the new world being formed. It was probably heavy going for a boy with the motor-song of a war-airplane in his head.

"We were taught in these years at Ridley that if the leadership of the privileged was passing away, it must be replaced by a leadership of the eminent or all life would become uninspired, with the mediocre reigning," recalls an Old Boy. He said this profound, but very sane and quite simple thinking was often propounded by Dr. Miller. "He meant to challenge us, and didn't really talk over our teen-age heads."

But in the end everything somehow came back to the war, especially for the seniors who knew it would soon be their turn to go. Lord Kitchener's pointing finger in the famous cartoon used in recruiting Britain's "New Army"

after 1914 – “We Want – YOU!” – was not needed by Ridley’s boys. The need of the Headmaster, the masters and parents was to find persuasive and convincing words which would induce boys to obtain at least their matriculation before enlisting.

Ridley College and the other independent preparatory schools of Canada had started the creation of their great tradition of national service in time of war during the South African War but it was now that it was sealed, vastly expanded and soundly established. Between 1914 and 1918 the Canadian independent preparatory boys’ schools established a record of service in the fighting formations of the Army, Navy and Air Force which was not surpassed by any non-military group or institution in Canada. Only the military colleges matched them in the proportion of their Old Boys to see active service. Ridley’s proportion was as high as any of the preparatory independent schools, and they were all high.

Building that proud tradition was a long, grim business. After the 1st Canadian Division had their baptism of battle, with appalling casualties, in the first war-spring – in the 2nd Battle of Ypres, April 22-24, 1915 – the war began to lose its glamour at Ridley. After the Somme in 1916 the war became a bleak thing for all Canada. Young Ridleians continued to volunteer for active service though a dark foreboding was now in their hearts, for the full awareness of the blood and sacrifice had settled down on Ridley by the end of 1916 to stay to the end.

Acta Ridleiana reported all of Ridley’s dead and published their obituaries. Their honoured names also went up on panels, placed on the walls of the chapel.

Another proud panel held the names of Old Ridleians who were decorated for valour and fighting leadership.

To illustrate how closely both Ridley’s students and Old Boys lived in the atmosphere of war, *Acta* also tried to report every Ridleian’s enlistment together with his rank and unit. A considerable part of each issue of the School’s journal had the character of a military document throughout the war.

In the School itself there was also a complete honour roll of all Ridleians serving in the armed services. The names were on the wall of the main corridor of the Upper School, the work of Mr. Brockwell of the Lower School. He painstakingly pasted each name, letter by letter, in white on a black background. In some months it required many tedious hours. And photographs of Ridley’s dead were steadily added to the rows of them under the chapel windows. Even after the old chapel had become an assembly hall in 1923, they were still there; all boys who attended Ridley from 1915 until 1948, when the building was torn down to make way for the Great Hall, will remember them.

The first letter by an Old Boy “from the front” to appear in *Acta* (Christ-

mas, 1914) had been from Lt. Arthur Bishop who was with the Middlesex Regiment, as was Lt. J. O. Leach. The Middlesex at the moment appeared to be holding a quiet sector of line. The first photographs of Ridleians in khaki to appear (Easter, 1915) were also of Old Boys serving with the Imperials, including the two Middlesex officers and Lt. S. P. Trench, Royal Artillery, and Lt. P. A. O. Leask, Royal Irish Rifles.

It was a salute by Ridley to the British Army, especially to the Old Contemptibles, that the editors of *Acta* (Mr. Powell, W. Symmes, E. H. Bullen, H. R. Wiggs, A. R. Turnbull and H. McCulloch) first honoured the Ridleians who were with British fighting units. They were naturally first to see action; if they missed the retreat from Mons they probably saw the 1st Battle of the Marne in 1914. The Canadians would follow them into battle painfully soon and, as it developed, with a minimum of training. Ridley's Old Boys had been flooding into the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions from the moment the militia units had the order: *Mobilize!* Training had started by August 5. By the following February many of those who were with the 1st Canadian Division were in action in France, despite a winter on Salisbury Plain with weather so atrocious their training was seriously curtailed.

Space limitations forbid recording here all Ridley's enlistments in the 1914-18 war. They were too many. But these named below were some of those who were the first to go – in the first war-year – and they are representative of all the rest.

KNOWN RIDLEY ENLISTMENTS, FIRST YEAR

Note: Because records were incomplete, the names of many Ridleians who enlisted in the first year of the war will be missing below. Most ranks and units shown are those at the time of enlistment, all that the records show. Despite omissions and errors, the list still indicates the promptness with which the Old Boys answered the call to war. (Please see partial alphabetical list of enlistments in Appendix H.)

Lt. Arthur L. Bishop (Middlesex); Lt. L. F. Bishop (25th Dragoons); Lt. H. H. Blake (C.F.A.); Gunner E. B. Bredin (7th Field); G. C. Boyer (Strathconas);

Lt. A. B. Carley (C.F.A.); Lt. Laddie Cassels (19th Bn.); Lt. H. D. Charles (R.R. Corps); Lt. A. R. S. Clarke (Dorsets); Lt. J. K. Cronyn (3rd Bn.); Lt. V. P. Cronyn (18th Bn.); Pte. E. F. Crossland (Q.O.R.); Pte. J. Crossland (3rd Bn.);

Gnr. N. H. Daniel (C.F.A.); Lt. W. J. Dobson (3rd Bn.);

Lt. F. D. Elliott (Grens.);

Lt. H. G. Fairfield (7th Field Regt.); N. A. Fairhead (C.A.S.C.); Lt. A. E. Farmer (Worcesters); Lt. Carl Y. Ford (R.A.M.C.);

Pte. H. Grassett (3rd Bn.); Lt. T. M. Graves (Punjabis); Lt. J. W. Greenhill (R.N.R.); Lt. W. L. L. Gordon (2nd Bn.);

Sapper R. D. Hague (R.C.E.); Lt. R. H. Harcourt (M.G. Corps); Lt. R. M. Harcourt (7th Bn.); Lt. W. E. Harris (C.F.A.); Col. W. B. Hendry (Staff, Field Hosp.);

Trooper J. H. Ingersoll (R.C.D.);
 Lt. C. H. J. James (Eaton's M.G.); Lt. Mill Jarvis (R.C.D.); Lt. K. Jarvis
 (28th Bn.); Lt. S. R. Jarvis (19th Bn.); Lt. W. D. P. Jarvis (3rd Bn.);
 Lt. P. Kortwright (C.E.F.);
 Lt. J. O. Leach (Middlesex); Lt. R. J. Leach (R.C.G.A.); Lt. W. B. Leach
 (P.P.C.L.I.); Lt. P. A. O. Leask (R. Irish R.);
 Capt. Gordon Mackenzie (16th Bn.); Lt. R. M. Macleod (27th Bn.); Sgt.
 F. H. Marani (3rd Bn.); Lt. C. K. C. Martin (C.F.A.); Capt. D. H. C. Mason (3rd
 Bn.); Lt. W. Mavor (48th High.); Lt. C. N. McCuaig (Royal High.); Lt. D. R.
 McCuaig (Royal High.); Lt. E. G. McDougall (P.P.C.L.I.); Lt. G. M. McLaren
 (48th High.); Lt. J. A. MacLaren (R.C.R.); Capt. G. Musson (C.A.M.C.);
 Lt. W. N. Nicholls (C.A.S.C.);
 Lt. H. Parker (30th Bn.); Tpr. C. Pascoe (K. E. Horse); Capt. F. M. Perry
 (48th High.); Capt. A. C. Prince (18th Bn.);
 Lt. D. S. Robinson (R.C.A.S.C.);
 Lt. J. H. Scandrett (6th Field); Lt. C. H. Sclater (Royal High.); Lt. W. H.
 Shoenberger (48th High.);
 Pte. C. Thistlethwaite (R.C.E.); Lt. S. P. Trench (Artillery); F. L. Trethewey
 (R.F.C.); F/O W. B. Trethewey (R.F.C.);
 Capt. C. D. Uniacke (Artillery);
 Capt. W. Vassie (3rd C.A.); Lt. W. H. V. Van der Smissen (3rd Bn.); Major
 C. T. Van Straubenzie (R.C.D.);
 Pte. K. F. Walbank (R.C.A.); Lt. H. M. Wilson (48th High.); Lt. H. V.
 Wrong (Ox. and Bucks.).

WITH many seniors of each year impatiently waiting to write their examinations and enlist, and with such a strong war atmosphere all about them, it soon became clear it was impossible to expect that the influence of the conflict would not be heavy on every phase of Ridley's activities. If Canadians generally could not hide from the war, it was much more difficult at Ridley for the School was so deeply caught up in it: all their Old Boys seemed to be enlisting; they knew that their senior boys – the Prefects and Cadet Officers – would soon be in uniform, and their families, neighbours and friends at home were so involved that the youngest lad in Lower School felt he was a part of the conflict.

The Headmaster soon realized something had happened to the temper and behaviour of his boys. An extraordinary run of them were being sentenced to "outside detention" on the farm, and his cane had little chance to gather dust in his study closet. The masters were having trouble with control. Restlessness, excitement and a spirit of recklessness were in the very air; the mischievous seemed obsessed and some of the quietest boys in the school were suddenly taking delight in flouting authority. A boy who was not usually given to practical jokes, especially not on a master, illustrated the new student mood. He placed a tightly wound tick-tack-toe – an ingenious device

comprised of a spool and strong thread – in a nervously inclined master's desk-drawer. No doubt he was emboldened by the general urge to do something daring. When the master drew the drawer out, a loud rattlesnake "whirr!" caused him to leap back, with the drawer falling to the floor with a crash and a great scatteration of loose objects. The boys whooped and cheered; the master lost his temper; and a fine class uproar ensued.

People were falling into the habit of blaming everything unusual on the war, but the Headmaster knew this would not do. Yet he understood that it was the war-mood of the country which had infected the boys.

On a Sunday in the first war-December he gave one of the most memorable of all his many fine ten-minute talks at the evening chapel service. It was about duty, even their prosaic role. They must carry on earnestly and steadfastly. He realized that if Ridley's world in wartime was a remote retreat, it still could not escape daily repercussions of tremendous events. The war was going to be like an indissoluble shadow over the School. The Canadian people could find no place to hide from such a war; it was too vast and disrupting; the country – and Ridley – must learn to live with it. He told the boys how essential this was, and that each must do his duty even if it seemed humdrum and without relation to the war effort. It could easily have been called poppycock, but he did it in a way that seemed to make an impression.

Perhaps the most painful experience in the entire life of the Headmaster was to watch his boys come up through the forms to Prize Day, only to march away to be swallowed in the war, which began to feel like an abyss. That was why he ordered that each Prize Day during the war would be subdued and quiet. It no longer meant that Ridley's graduates were on the threshold of higher education and the bright promise of adult life; it could mean they were about to march to death. Were not the names of Old Boys in almost every newspaper casualty list? By 1916 all were remembering on each Prize Day that the names of their graduates might soon be transferred to the grim statistics of war's toll. This was often tragically true; each June more graduates went into the Army than into the universities; for instance, twelve who graduated in June, 1916, were in uniform before Christmas, some of them already overseas. So all Prize Days were subdued; no speeches; no cheers; but there was deep feeling in each quiet handclasp of farewell.

Yet the boys did learn to live with the war. Perhaps they achieved it with reasonable ease just because they were boys. Perhaps the Headmaster's talk in the Sunday evening chapel service in late December, 1914, helped by putting school work and the war into perspective. In any event the boys came back from their first wartime Christmas holidays seemingly prepared to go along with the new pattern. The war would still be discussed and probed until the self-elected "arm-chair authorities" on strategy in the dormitories became tiresome, and there would be further outbursts of reckless escapades

to reflect the tension and restlessness everywhere, but Ridley was ready now to live with the war.

The Headmaster heard of expulsions and trouble in other schools; he was proud of Ridley and the way his students had settled down.

WINTER SPORT IN WARTIME

IN THE EARLY winter of 1915 the skiers were on the nearby slopes and hills and one boy even demonstrated his ability to use snow shoes; in the bright frosty weather the snow was crisp and feathery fine. It was wonderful hockey and skating weather, with the rink custodian harried by the demands for ice-time by both skaters and the great crowd of ardent young hockey players eager to win their colours with the first team, or at least to be chosen for the second, or for a form team, or for the Dean's House team of Third Formers, or for the Lower School team. ("We needed two rinks at least; some hockey players had to practise before breakfast.") Then, to the consternation of all, a January thaw followed the cold spell, and for a week or so no one had ice.

Beginning with hockey in the winter of 1915, the athletes of Ridley disclosed that the general war-mood had infected them with a fierceness of effort which was going to make them formidable regardless of the game or the opposition. An Old Boy declared he had never seen such a will to win. They had good ice again by the end of January, 1915, with the rink busy every afternoon from one o'clock until five-thirty. The first team was quickly skated into shape. Tucker was hockey captain as they played an extraordinarily long schedule, no less than twenty games between January 22 and March 13. ("If boys are kept busy and interested, they have less time for mischief.") They finished with the remarkable record of sixteen victories, three games tied, and a single defeat. That lone loss was on a 1-0 score against a new rival, the Lafayette team from Buffalo.

To complete such a heavy schedule with such a fine record clearly says this Ridley hockey team of 1915 had the fighting spirit which marked the truly great Ridley teams of all sports.

Not to be outdone, the second and third hockey teams won a majority of their games, and the Dean's House team of Third Formers were so strong they won all their games and were still thirsting for more when they had no more foes to conquer.

In 1916 there was no ice until February, then the frost kept it firm until the end of March. They played several new opponents, including munition-factory teams, a team of engineers, Nichols College of Buffalo and a fraternity team from Toronto. Under hockey captain H. McCulloch they won most of

their matches but learned a lot about butt-ends in many a wild goal-mouth *mêlée* with the burly industrial teams. ("We were husky ourselves and gave as good as we got.")

By 1917 an outdoor rink was in operation to relieve the congestion on the indoor ice because the problem of allotting time for both skaters and hockey players had remained acute. Under hockey captain C. R. Irwin the first team won several games by "basketball scores" – 17-1 over Port Dalhousie; 13-2 against Nichols College; 10-3 over Welland Vale. They lost to Hamilton Alerts in the spring of '17 or they would have had a sweep of all games.

The hockey season was over before the severe influenza epidemic of 1918 had swept through Canada to cause a ban on all assemblies of people and to wreck every major sport at Ridley but hockey. There was still a headache for team captain J. G. Goldie and the 1918 Hockey Committee; they had trouble choosing the first team because there was so little difference in the calibre and abilities of a host of eager, young aspirants for colours. The team was not chosen until late January, and then it won 5 games and lost 3 before going without breakfast in order to start early to reach Buffalo (in a blizzard) for the season's final game against Nichols College. Blocked trains and a Buffalo trolley which kept breaking down finally carried them to the college (without lunch) by four o'clock, only to find no ice, no welcome, no hockey players. Happily there was a "millionaire" along, so the Ridley team dined in state at the Hotel Statler. The official record read: Ridley 0 (but a great feed), Nichols 0.

The basketball players during the war were still up against the old handicap of hockey's greater popularity, but more "string beans" were now being chosen and trained for Ridley's teams, and they gave a good account of themselves among the Y.M.C.A.s and collegiates within reach of Ridley. Their winter transport compared sadly with today's streamlined buses, trains running on schedule and taxi-cabs over good highways for the shorter runs. They often failed to reach a destination because of snow-blocked roads. A Ridley basketball or hockey team might be hours on the road in bad weather, just trying to reach Niagara Falls or Hamilton. They would have looked with awe at the travel luxury of Ridley's athletes of the 1950s. (*Postscript*: As an Old Boy in 1958 watched taxi-cabs loaded with basketballers leaving for Hamilton, and a sleek, heated chartered bus filled with hockey players and their supporters bound for Buffalo, both to roll down Queen Elizabeth Way, he said: "Well, I hope they appreciate it. They didn't pamper Ridley athletes in my day.")

CRICKET CHAMPIONS OF THEIR SCHOOL WORLD

THE story of Ridley's cricket during the war years is one of almost unbroken triumph. When Ridley won the Cricket Championship of the Little Big Four in three of the four pre-war years, the lift to school spirit was so great that unquenchable optimists predicted their dominance over U.C.C., St. Andrew's and T.C.S. would be maintained year after year (as it was for a long time). Ridley now achieved the (then) unparalleled feat of winning the inter-school Cricket Championship for five years in succession, for they won again in 1915, 1916 and 1917. They missed in 1918, by losing two of three important school matches, but won it again in 1919, tied for it in 1920; won it once more in 1921, and yet again in 1922. In the twelve years between the historic turn in 1911 and 1922 Ridley was outright Cricket Champion of the Little Big Four nine times; they also tied for it once which meant ten championships. They lost only four school matches during those twelve years. (In 1922 this appeared to be a cricket record which would never be matched in inter-school competition in any equivalent period. But their own cricket triumphs were to go on still further before the wonderful trend changed, which of course was inevitable.)

In the four war-years of cricket from 1915 to 1918, it is difficult to detail their victories in cricket each season without running short of fresh superlatives and becoming monotonous. But reference must be made to Ridley's historic wartime teams for they consolidated the great Ridley cricket tradition, perhaps set up the atmosphere for the era of Ridley super-stars in the Twenties.

Before the 1915 cricket season was well launched there was word of the Canadians' gallant stand at Ypres – The First Gas – and a casualty list that read like a disaster. There were Ridleians to mourn as they hit for a boundary at the practice wickets late in April. Cricket captain Micky (V. R.) Irvine had only four colours to help from the championship eleven of 1914 but, if anything, an even greater team was built; at least, it was more spectacular, with Irvine's own 76 not out against U.C.C., the most thrilling of many episodes. It was the highest individual score made by a Ridley batsman in school play since the start of Little Big Four cricket. It was thus considered a formidable feat, even if it was a record which would be fantastically shattered in 1921 by Sandy Somerville, now in the Lower School. (*Postscript*: Micky Irvine graduated in 1915 and then helped the wartime master-shortage by teaching during 1916 and 1917; in 1918 he was killed with the R.A.F.)

Ridley had done well in a short series of preliminary games in 1915, winning three and drawing one, and then defeated T.C.S., St. Andrew's and U.C.C. in turn in June, to win another championship of the Little Big Four. Against T.C.S. Ridley won on the first innings' result 61-50, with Jenoure 14

and Alexander 13, their best batsman. (Lefroy scored 33 of the even 100 runs for Ridley in the second innings, with T.C.S. scoring only 61 for 8 when stumps were drawn.) Then they downed St. Andrew's easily by an innings and 17 runs. Runs in double figures were scored by Garrett 24, Alexander 22, Williams 14, Irvine 11, and Mills II with 15.

The final game against U.C.C. for the 1915 championship was played on Ridley's own beautiful campus, with the entire school watching and soon sore-throated from constant cheering. Ridley batted first and made 210 runs for 7 when the innings was declared. It was more than enough to win. All but two batsmen for Ridley had scored in double figures. In their two innings U.C.C. scored only 74 and 75 for 6 – and Ridley was at once roaring their old triumphant chorus: "*We're Champions Again!*" – in private, that is, because in cricket it is not the thing to gloat.

Eric Jenoure from the West Indies who had always starred with his Lower School elevens held the best bowling average in 1915, a fine 5.4. Dudley Garrett had the high batting average: 28.3. (*Postscript*: Jenoure left Ridley in June, 1915. The U.C.C. game was his last. He was killed serving with a West Indian regiment.)

The second team played four games, won three and drew the other, yet the third team was so good they beat the second XI in one of their two encounters. It augured well; good men were coming up.

In 1916 so much cricket was played that no less than four organized Ridley teams were playing outside matches. Ridley had immense cricket strength. Cricket captain Lefroy led the first XI through the season without a defeat, including a fine game with a team of cricketers serving with the 180th Battalion. A drawn game against T.C.S., after Ridley had scored 118 in the first innings, alone prevented a clean sweep. They were 1916 Cricket Champions in any event, downing St. Andrew's rather ignominiously 111-16 in a one-innings game and defeating U.C.C. 104-36 on their own cricket ground.

Wood was top bowler with the fine average of 3.2 in 1916. The team batting averages were up, Alexander leading with 38.0.

Even the Lower School did well in 1916, despite measles and other tribulations, with the game against Appleby at Oakville the most interesting. The Lower School captain, Sandy Somerville, was expected to score in double figures every time he went to bat and he did. (Somerville was also captain of the junior drill team; he also won the Lower School championship in track-and-field.)

In 1917, the First XI maintained the cricket pace. The XI not only won the Little Big Four Cricket Championship once more but went through its season with no defeats and no draws. *This meant seven years with only a single Ridley defeat in her inter-school matches.*

The School was so strong in cricket that the second XI had several players who would have won their first-team colours in many earlier years.

From 1913 to 1917 inclusive, Ridley had been LBF Cricket Champion five straight years, *the longest string of championships in school history to date*. (*Postscript*: They were all outright championships, and proved to be the longest succession of them in Ridley's first seventy years.)

Ridley in 1917 first won from U.C.C. 98-53 on the first innings' score, with runs in double figures by McCulloch 20, Bullen 23 and Hal Williams 27. (The son of the Principal of the Lower School was batting strongly in his last Ridley cricket season. He would soon enlist.) T.C.S. were defeated next in a low-scoring game, with Ridley's 60 and 59 in two innings too much for the cricketers from Port Hope. Ridley then downed St. Andrew's 152-59 on the first innings score, as St. Andrew's could only repeat exactly the same score – 59 for 7 – in their second innings. Gartshore's 29 was Ridley's top individual score.

E. H. Bullen's 23.0 in the batting averages was best of the team; Wood again had the best seasonal bowling average, 4.35.

Here is the 1917 Championship team: D. Wood, captain (3rd year); H. B. Williams (3rd year); A. L. McCulloch (2nd year); J. Walton (2nd year); H. R. Barr (2nd year). The following were the first-year colours: A. S. Gartshore, E. H. Bullen, W. P. Goetz, W. A. Woodruff, C. J. Barr, D. G. McAllister, C. A. Hyde and Sandy (C. R.) Somerville.

This was a notable year for Ridley; 1917 marked the arrival of a new cricket professional, Tom Coburn, who had been a star with Lancashire. Sometimes called "Pro" and sometimes "Uncle Tom"; he became an integral part of Ridley at once as he still is. Remember his horse-drawn roller? Then the soft clicking of his motor mower on quiet, warm summer days?

After such a run of unbroken successes it was perhaps harder for the Old Boys to watch Ridley go down to both T.C.S. and U.C.C. in 1918 than it was for the team. They knew they had played well and in fact had been beaten in both games by a very narrow margin. Perhaps it was the close T.C.S. score which gave the Old Boys their look of wry chagrin. T.C.S. had defeated Ridley by only 6 runs. Ridley then defeated St. Andrew's 162 to 73 and 13 for 3, with H. R. Barr making a stand of 71 before he was bowled.

Sandy Somerville, who had been spectacular as a batsman with the Lower School, was now up with the first team for his second year and was developing the calibre of stardom very fast. The bowlers of the three school teams had held him in check; Lightbourne of St. Andrew's gave him a goose-egg, but he batted a 57 against the 1st Depot army team and he had a 48 against *The Albions*. Howard Barr was captain and wicket-keeper in 1918. Somerville was third to MacMahon and Barr in the batting averages, but he won the fielding prize. He then became a spectacular bat in the first postwar years.

WHERE the reverberations of the war in Europe were heard and felt most persistently and intimately was, of course, in the Cadet Corps, still a volunteer body. The Corps had taken on new meaning, with the seniors sensing that if the conflict lasted they would be into it. Even the juniors were parading with an almost grim seriousness of purpose. The war and its casualties were sharply personal to the cadets. By early spring of 1915 many of their officers and section commanders of the previous two or three years, whom they had known well, were already overseas or on their way. Several Ridley cadets of the spring of 1915 were in officer training schools of the armed forces before fall. The cadets and former cadets of Ridley were valiantly confirming the editorial view of them by *Acta Ridleiana* in late 1914:

“We were proud of our corps, and proud of its efficiency, but more on account of our aim to do well whatever we attempt, than with any fixed idea that we were training, and training well many a lad, who would all too soon have the responsibility of leading men in actual warfare.

“That those who have received the benefits of such training have not taken their responsibilities lightly is what we should expect, and the large number of old Ridleians who joined the first contingent, as officers or privates, is a signal proof that our expectations have not been wrong. Already some of our number are on the firing line, and we eagerly await news of them. That they will give a good account of themselves we know, and it is our daily prayer that they may return in health and safety to take up again the various tasks, which have been so abruptly and terribly interrupted by this world-wide war.”

When the Cadet Corps fell in to go to Niagara-on-the-Lake for a sham battle on May 14, 1915, the war was already beginning to change from a great adventure to something with a chill sternness to it; the casualty reports from the scene of the gallant Canadians' stand in the 2nd Battle of Ypres in the third week of April were still coming in, but they were confusing because so many were missing. They already knew that casualty lists were not remote statistics; these carried the names of their own. Some of their greatest names! Some were dead; some wounded. Others were missing.

They knew that Capt. Choppie (W. L. L.) Gordon (1905-08) who had been Cadet Captain and also winner of Ridley's most honoured award, the Mason Gold Medal, and then Ridley's second Battalion Sergeant Major at R.M.C., had been killed-in-action near St. Julien. He had just been promoted to Captain. Their great cadet captain of 1911, Lt. Bill (W. D. P.) Jarvis, had also been killed with the 3rd Canadian Battalion. His company had filled a gap on the left of a hard-pressed company of the 48th Highlanders defending St. Julien before the town was overrun by the Germans. Bill had been at Ridley from 1902 to 1911, going through both the Lower and Upper Schools and winning the Mason Gold Medal in 1911. Killed in the same grim fight along the St. Julien road while serving with the 16th Battalion, Canadian

Scottish, was Lt. Gordon (G. A. G.) Mackenzie, a student from British Columbia who had attended Ridley for six years, from 1893 to 1899, and had learned the rudiments of soldiering with the drill squads under Col. Thairs. To add to his family's tragedy, his brother was killed in the same four-day battle to save Ypres. Lt. Stanley (A. R. S.) Clarke, nephew of Canon Newbolt, Chancellor of St. Paul's Cathedral, who attended Ridley from 1902 to 1904, was reported "gassed", with no further word. (He survived.)

There was still grave doubt and anxiety about other former Ridley cadet officers, whose units had been in the thick of the fighting and who were reported either wounded or missing; Capt. Doggie Mason, 3rd Battalion, Lt. Smoot Mavor, 48th Highlanders, and Capt. Herb (J. H.) Scandrett, a gunner officer, were known to be wounded, and "wounded and missing" was the chill word on Capt. Glen Gordon with the 13th Canadian Battalion, Black Watch, which had been in the doomed front-line to the left of the 48th Highlanders. (Weeks later, they learned that Capt. Gordon was wounded and a prisoner-of-war.)

The war had thus become a grim reality to Ridley very early. The toll of their dead was to go on and on through the months and years ahead and the pain never eased through familiarity with its sadness. The early fatal Ridley casualties hurt most because they came as a shock; for the first time they came to understand the deadliness of the game of war.

That this was so could be seen in the Cadet Corps as they had left for the sham-battle at Niagara-on-the-Lake; they were strangely subdued, without the laughter or anticipation of an exciting experience which had marked all their previous expeditions abroad. It was a mood which was to characterize the Cadet Corps until the end of the war; from this point, their youngest recruit always sensed that the senior boy who gave commands and who wore one of the new sword belts, presented to their officers in 1915, could be named in a casualty list in another year.

Their exercise at the mouth of the Niagara River found them attached to a McGill University unit to "repel a landing" by a University of Toronto unit. There was a lot of firing of blank cartridges – they had been issued two rounds each – and if that was interesting, the day was long and tiring and they had no idea what the tactical moves were about. However, it was much more warlike than "attacking" imaginary trenches on their own campus, the usual feature of each inspection day. The "battle" was mysteriously called off, and then they learned why: the combatants were marched past the Duke of Connaught and Major-Gen. Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia, on the bunting-draped main street of Niagara-on-the-Lake. They thrilled to that, for they felt like real soldiers.

When the Cadet Corps came back from the mouth of the Niagara River there was joyful word at the School that Capt. Mason, Capt. Scandrett and

Lt. Mavor were in hospital and not seriously wounded. Capt. Scandrett was awarded Ridley's first Military Cross for his fight with the battery in Kitchener's Wood; Lt. Mavor later won the second Ridley M. C. at Festubert.

The battles of Festubert and Givenchy were both costly for the 1st Canadian Division that summer. In the bitter fighting near Fromelles on Aubers Ridge, in the ill-fated British offensive which included the Battle of Loos, Lt. Arthur Bishop ('07-'12) with the Middlesex Regiment, had suffered a terrible head wound. It was some weeks before the School knew he was safe in a hospital in England.

It had nothing to do with the cadets, but it was part of Ridley's war in 1915 when an unusual one-time Third Former was given a rousing send-off at St. Catharines' station. Miss Nannette Miller had taken training in St. Catharines' General Hospital as a V.A.D., and was off to England to serve in the Queen's Canadian Military Hospital at Shorncliffe. The School prefects (all cadets) added their cheers to "the Raahs for Nan" as she left. *Acta* published her photo with the Old Boy warriors not once, but twice.

It soon required pages of *Acta* to list all the Old Ridleians in the fighting services. The black-bordered panel in which those who had been killed-in-action were listed grew longer and longer. The still lengthier list of wounded kept pace. Their journal was soon carrying several pages of photographs of Old Boys in uniform, and this, plus the constant war talk and the way almost everyone and every activity at the School was linked to the war, gave Ridley the martial atmosphere of a military college. The juniors caught the fever in 1916 and formed their own platoon, drilling weekly and getting ready for the day they could wear the rifle-green dress of a cadet. The following year they marched out in public, attending the Cadet Corps' church parade to St. George's Church. Old Boy Ab (A. W.) Taylor was so impressed with their earnestness he provided a cup for a competition among their four sections. Their uniforms were blazers and flannels, but they were the proud Cadet Corps' "reserve". This was the first Cadet Sunday, later a traditional event, generally with attendance at the morning service at St. Thomas' Church.

It was in 1916 that Col. Thairs' knowledge of the "army way" had enabled him to wangle himself a dearly desired service appointment, despite his age. He became Quartermaster of the Officers' Training School at Toronto. He was back at Ridley in 1917, but even a year of actual army service was a vast satisfaction. While he had been away, Mr. J. C. Ashburner acted as Bursar, and then became a mathematics master for so long that many Ridleians came to consider him a permanent Ridley personality. (He retired 35 years later, in 1952.)

It was also in 1916 that the Cadet Corps band reached a record strength of fourteen, with new instruments presented by Old Boy Mill Jarvis of Toronto and Mrs. Zybach of Niagara Falls. Lt. Barr was O.C. band.



COL. A. L. BISHOP
('07-'12)
2nd Middlesex and Staff



CAPT. JACK O. LEACH
('02-'11)
Middlesex and R.F.C.



MAJOR F. H. MARANI
('01-'12)
3rd Cdn. Bn.

The Old Boys enlist early . . .



CAPT. G. R. MARANI
('03-'14)
48th Highlanders of C.



LT. D. S. WELD
('10-'14)
Royal Flying Corps



LT. A. E. MIX
('07-'14)
Royal Cdn. Engineers

LT. H. H. BLAKE
('08-'11)
Royal Cdn. Art.



CAPT. J. HAROLD N. DROPE
('12-'14)
R.F.C.



CAPT. (DR.) R. D. GURD
('93-'98)
R.C.A.M.C.





CAPT. H. CASSELS, M.B.E.
('07-'13)
19th Cdn. Bn.



LT. H. S. GOODERHAM
('05-'13)
20th Cdn. Bn.



LT.-COL. D. H. C. MASON,
D.S.O., O.B.E. ('95-'01)
3rd Cdn. Bn.

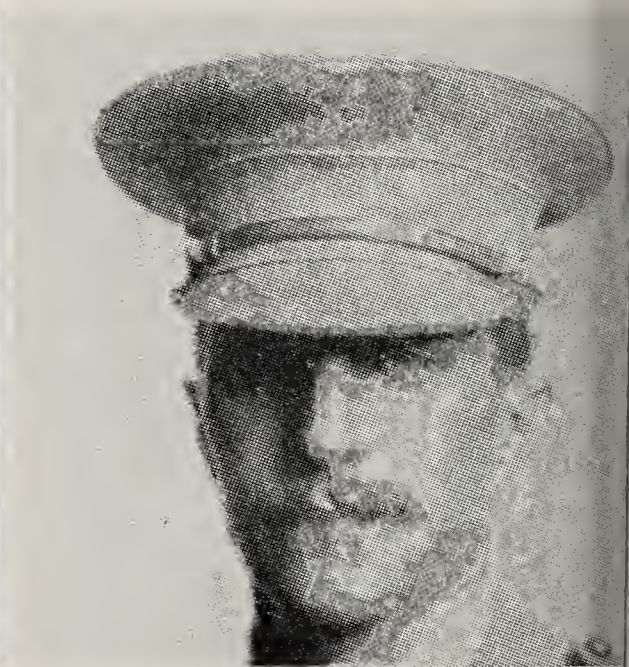
... in all the Fighting Services



MAJOR WILFRID MAVOR,
M.C. ('10-'12)
48th Highlanders of C.



LT. S. C. SNIVELY
('97-'02)
20th Cdn. Bn.



MAJOR N. W. C. HOYLES
('95-'00)
48th Bn., 3rd Div.

MAJOR D. R. McQUAIG,
D.S.O. ('92-'93)
13th Cdn. Bn.



LT. V. P. CRONYN
('06-'13)
18th Cdn. Bn.



LT. ERIC S. GOODERHAM
('03-'08)
83rd Cdn. Bn.



After Col. Thairs returned to Ridley in 1917, he gave another illustration of his experience in the "army way". He advised Cadet Capt. Reg. Wilson to train the cadets in physical exercises as a body, the whole corps moving in unison to the pace set by Lt. Barr's drummers. They had not tried this seriously before. Col. McCrimmon, the Inspecting Officer, arrived and at once asked for exactly this kind of demonstration – and every officer and section commander of the Cadet Corps at once swore that Col. Thairs must possess clairvoyant powers. How else could he know what special drill would be asked? Col. Thairs had just been practising "the old army way"; via the army grapevine another cadet instructor had tipped him on the type of drill Col. McCrimmon was requesting this year.

Sometimes, the cadets felt sharply that their role was only make-believe, especially on the days when returned veterans visited their old school, to be greeted with acclaim and a touch of awe. But that was a fleeting thing. The boys did their best to the end to honour the Cadet Corps' steadily mounting tradition of service, which was being hard-won for it grew just as steadily in cost. They can be forgiven for feeling that every casualty was a sacrifice by their Corps and that every decoration won by an Old Boy reflected proudly on them. Their swelling *esprit de corps* was justified for nearly all the Old Ridleians in the fighting services had been cadets. The morale of the Corps could not help but soar because of the example of service in the enlistments, and because of the new meaning of service in the lengthening Roll of Honour in the Chapel of Ridley's – and the Corps' – dead.

Soldiers' letters in *Acta* provided a remarkable cross-section of experience in the various services and war areas. A letter from Count (G.) Drew-Brook (C.M.R.s) described a 1915 Zeppelin raid, and Lt. Harold Drope (R.F.C.) wrote from a flying field in Belgium, saying: "Laddie Cassels (19th Bn.) is only about five miles away but as yet I haven't had time to see him," which could have been a breach of security for it pin-pointed his aerodrome as near Reninghelst in the Ypres sector. (He was wrong; Laddie had been wounded and was in hospital in England.) Lt. Wilf (W. H.) Heighington had written *How to Behave in England* in an early *Acta* and now wrote: "I'm afraid I'd be court-martialled if I wrote, *How to Behave in France*."

HOW TO BEHAVE IN ENGLAND (1915)

by
Lt. W. Heighington

Don't go to the National Liberal Club and laud Toryism. Avoid eulogizing the yacht or the old-fashioned horse at the Automobile Club.

In the company of thinking men don't praise England's part in the war, Premier Asquith or Mr. Balfour.

Be discontented, grouse, and talk of brass-hatted inefficiency, and you will be made welcome to the Englishman's midst.

There was one very tragic letter: Lt. Dutch (H. M.) Wilson, 48th Highlanders, wrote to Mr. Griffith on April 21, 1916, from his billet near Ypres, but he was killed by a Mills bomb before his letter could be printed and read in *Acta*.

An intriguing note appeared in *Acta* to give a faint hint of the bizarre adventures of a former cadet section commander, the redoubtable Gink Doherty. A pre-war American stunt flyer, he had gone to Italy to help train airmen for the country's armed forces: "W. A. Doherty (Gink), Ridley College, 1905, is now chief of the aerial service of the Italian navy. He has been made a chevalier. Gink will always be remembered at Ridley as one of the pluckiest boys who ever wore a football suit. *Acta* sends heartiest congratulations."

TO SPRING

*O Spring! most glorious season of the year,
When winter's icy bonds, so grim and dour
Are loosed, as if by some mysterious power,
That comes to bring our frozen souls good cheer;
Thou art a time, when odours rich and rare
Burst from each swelling bud and blossom young,
When blithesome carols are by robins sung,
And by the lark, that minstrel of the air.*

*The rippling streamlet, joyous with new life,
Splashes and gurgles past the noisy copse,
Where crows and sparrows in the elm-tree tops
Engage in happy and in playful strife,
As if to celebrate their advent here,
O Spring! most glorious season of the year.*

— E. H. Bullen

Such gentle thoughts were seriously needed at Ridley during 1916 for the casualties were shocking. For Ridley, in that year, the worst of them occurred in June when the Canadians saw desperate and costly fighting at the apex of the blood-guilty Ypres Salient in which many Ridleians were prominent, and again in the autumn, beginning in September, on the Somme.

The first to fall was Lt. H. H. Bourne, 54th Battalion, who was "missing" after Canadian trenches were overrun in Sanctuary Wood on June 2. He had been one of the coolest students at the time of the Ridley fire in 1903. One of the greatest fights in the history of the 3rd Battalion then took place (June 13) as the 3rd and 16th recaptured the lost ground under German eyes on Mount Sorrel. Capt. Van der Smissen was killed gallantly leading his company and Major Doggie Mason and Capt. Ferdie Marini were wounded,

which meant that in a single attack one grandson was killed, one son and one grandson wounded of Ridley's late respected President, Mr. J. Herbert Mason.

In that same bitter but successful Canadian counter-attack, Lt. Hugh M. Grassett (1909-12) who was machine-gun officer of the 3rd Battalion was killed. Lt. Alfie (A. S.) Trimmer, with the 10th Battalion, who had encountered Doggie Mason just behind the front-line, was wounded and won a bar to his Military Cross. Capt. Pig (R. W. F.) Jones had also been encountered by the 3rd Battalion as they were going out of the line in 1915; he gave a lift in a lorry to exhausted men of the 3rd Battalion at Doggie's request. Capt. Jones was now wounded in this bloody June of 1916.

More Old Ridleians had been concentrated in that confined, embattled little patch of the Ypres Salient's blood-soaked ground than in any other battle sector throughout the later war. Capt. Counter (S. C.) Norsworthy won the Military Cross and was promoted for his gallant leadership of a company of the 42nd Battalion, Black Watch, to the left of Mount Sorrel. (As Major Norsworthy, he was awarded the D.S.O. for his fighting leadership with the 73rd Bn. on the Somme in the fall.)

Even after the snarling temper of the Salient settled down, Ypres did not let the Old Boys go south toward the Somme with the Canadian Corps in late August without exacting still further toll. A master and a student were still to die; the School's masters were serving and sacrificing, too. Major, Acting Lt.-Col. W. J. Dobson, who had taught classics in 1911 and 1912, had enlisted early as a private with the 3rd Battalion and had been commissioned after transferring to the British Army; he had then returned to the 1st Canadian Battalion, only to be killed in July in the Ypres Salient while in acting command. The last Old Boy to be left behind in a Salient grave of 1916 was Pte. Cyril B. Dickson who had attended Ridley from 1902 to 1906. He was killed with the 5th C.M.R.s as he was due to leave for England and a commission.

The heavy fighting on the Somme that autumn also did not fail to exact its toll of Ridley's old cadets. There were few inspiring items of news for Ridley over many weeks of depressing news dispatches from the bloody battle of attrition. Lt. D'Arcy Wadsworth, who had attended the Lower School, had been commissioned with the 72nd Battalion and had then been fatally wounded to the right of Courcellette, tragically soon after arriving in action. He died of wounds on October 18. Lt. B. A. E. Morton, who had been a cadet lieutenant "only yesterday" and who had spent part of his last leave at the School, was killed with the 75th Battalion on the day Lt. Wadsworth had been fatally wounded. Earlier, Capt. Gerald E. Blake, who had gone to England at his own expense in 1915 with his cousin Hume Wrong to enter O.T.C. at Oxford, had been commissioned with the Oxford and Bucks Regiment. He was killed leading his company in an attack on the Somme on July

25, 1916. Lt. W. H. Norton-Taylor, an American Ridleian, headed back to Canada soon after the outbreak of war enlisting as a private with the 21st Battalion. He was Mentioned in Despatches for gallantry as a sergeant at St. Eloi and was an officer when killed soon after the 2nd Division arrived on the Somme in September.

The death on the Somme of the son of Mr. J. H. Ingersoll, who had been intimately associated with Ridley since the Founding and who had been far closer to the School than most members of the Board as chairman of the St. Catharines Committee, was a particularly sad blow to the School in the autumn of 1916. J. Hamilton Ingersoll had enlisted as a private soldier in his eagerness to serve. He was first with the R.C.R. in Bermuda, then went to Sandhurst for his commission, being gazetted with the Lincolns. Always daring and adventuresome, he had transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, but a crash incapacitated him for flying and he rejoined the Lincolns while they were fighting on the Somme. He was killed in an attack on September 19, before he could visit Old Ridleians with the 1st Canadian Division who were then billeted in the Albert area while fighting around Moquet Farm.

With such tragedies constantly occurring, Ridley could not have separated itself from the war even if this had been desired. In addition to the growing lists of Ridley's dead, of those who were serving, of their decorations and the long rows of their photographs, Old Ridleians who had been returned to Canada with wounds kept coming back to visit their old school as if drawn by a magnet. They kept the war linked to the School.

It was on Ridley's week-ends that her green fields, the Headmaster's office and the dining room looked most martial for, in addition to returned veterans, Old Boys newly in uniform habitually converged on their old school from the training camps. Any event or nothing at all could be an excuse. They generally came presumably to see just one more hockey or cricket or football match before going overseas, but they were actually absorbing the spiritual strength which Ridley's atmosphere always seemed able to impart, before they left Canada to take their chances with fate and the enemy. Perhaps Ridley represented a safe haven to them, something they wished to savour for one last time.

The Headmaster had contrived a mass-influx of them in the summer of 1915; he had organized a dinner for the Old Boys who were in training at Niagara-on-the-Lake. The old militia camp had been expanded to enormous size. He did not leave it to the Old Boys to find their own way to Ridley; with Col. Thairs he headed a fleet of cars which drove over and gathered them up. Three wounded veterans of the fighting services overseas arrived: Capt. Arthur Bishop, on sick leave in Canada after being wounded with the Middlesex Regiment, came over from Toronto; Major Smoot Mavor, M.C., now with the 92nd Battalion and getting ready to go overseas again, and Capt. W. H. Shoenberger, returned with the motor cavalcade. Others to arrive were

Lt. Charles Dalton (83rd Battalion); Capt. Alex Snively (also 92nd); Capt. Ross Gooderham (74th Battalion); Capt. Fred Spence (37th Battalion) and no less than five Old Boys with the 35th Battalion; Lt. Sky Snively; Capt. Dick Harcourt; Lt. W. L. Christie; Lt. Wilf (W. H.) Heighington and Lt. P. C. Tidy.

It was a great evening for both boys and Old Boys, because school spirit always seemed to soar whenever the Old Boys came back to their school in a body. Major Mavor rendered his hilarious anecdote about a fire and 'Arry, trapped on a window ledge, which scores of soldiers had heard at regimental or camp sing-songs. After yells to 'Arry to jump into a blanket, the monologue ended: "*'Arry jumped but, geez guys, we didn't have no blanket!*" Capt. Alex Snively capped the great night by requesting, as vice-president of the Old Boys' Association, a half-holiday next day for the School.

The gatherings of Old Boys in uniform for Ridley's week-ends continued throughout the war. Other famous Ridley students to come back to visit in 1916 were: Lt. Laddie Cassels (19th Battalion); Capt. J. H. Scandrett, M.C. (Artillery); Capt. R. W. F. Jones (2nd Battalion) and Pte. J. Crossland (3rd Battalion). Still more came home later that year either to stay or to recover and return to battle: Major Doggie Mason, D.S.O., and Capt. Ferdie Marani (both 3rd Battalion); Lt. W. J. Steacy (who had lost an eye with the 34th Battery), and Lt. C. E. H. Thomas (their old classics master, wounded by shell splinters while serving with the 78th Battalion). Lt. Thomas rejoined the staff in September, 1917.

Proportionately, Ridley's masters were matching her Old Boys in answering the call to arms; there were other masters to go in addition to Major Dobson (killed in action) and wounded Lt. Thomas. With the first was Dr. W. H. Merritt, the School's first (1889-1908) physician, who entered the army as a combatant and was given command of the 14th Field Battery. Mr. W. E. Harris, who had taught science for one term, joined Merritt's battery and by the fall of '15 was an officer and poison-gas authority. Mr. W. F. Wallace also did not report for the Michaelmas term in '15; the English master was a gunner with the 34th Battery. Others on the staff to serve were Capt. Mel Brock, a Lower School master who was with a military hospital, and in January, 1917, the future Rev. Denny Bright, a science master, joined the Royal Flying Corps. An especially interesting speaker at a Sunday evening chapel service in November 1916 was in uniform. He was Capt. the Reverend W. L. Archer, Chaplain of the 81st Battalion, who was welcomed with particular warmth by Dr. Miller and the School for he was one of their own. He had been Head Boy in 1901. By the autumn of 1916 Nannette Miller had also come back to St. Catharines after serving as a V.A.D. at Queen's Canadian Hospital, Beachborough. She had seen far more wounded of the old School than any other overseas Ridleian.

The great strain of the casualties for Ridley was deepened by their per-

sistence. There was no cessation in the steady toll paid by Old Boys over the full period of the Kaiser's War from April, 1915, when the 1st Canadian Division saw its first major action, to the end at Mons. The losses of Old Boys in the vicious Ypres Salient and in the blood-bath of the Somme in 1916, were only followed by others in 1917 – in the inspiring Canadian victory on Vimy Ridge, then in the Battle of Hill 70, and finally in the frightful ordeal in the mud of Passchendaele. The casualties went on and on – after the tide turned before Amiens in 1918 and on through the victorious last One Hundred Days.

Each Canadian battle – victory or defeat – became a Ridley war-name.

TO THE SCHOOL AT WAR

*We don't forget – while in this dark December
We sit in schoolrooms that you know so well
And hear the sounds that you so well remember –
The clock, the scurrying feet, the Chapel bell;
Others are sitting in the seats you sat in;
There's nothing else seems altered here – and yet
Through all of it, the same old Greek and Latin –
You know we don't forget.*

*We don't forget you – in the wintry weather
You man the trench or tramp the frozen snow;
We play the games we used to play together
In days of peace that seem so long ago;
But through it all, the shouting and the cheering,
These other hosts in graver conflict met,
Those other sadder sounds your ears are hearing
Be sure we don't forget.*

*And you, our brother, who for all our praying
To this dear school of ours come back no more,
Who lie, our country's debt of honour paying –
And not in vain – upon a foreign shore,
Till that great day when at the Throne of Heaven
The books are opened and the Judgment set,
Your lives for honour and for Empire given
The School will not forget.*

– C.A.A. in *Acta*, 1915
(from the *London Times*)

17

From Vimy Ridge to the End

"The Honour Roll of Ridley's dead in war represents an allegiance to the principles by which honourable men live. It added new strength of spirit to the School as it bequeathed an institutional greatness which will last while Ridley lasts."

RIDLEY'S boys read the newspapers casually, the war news intently, but they were far less interested in politics and current affairs than they would be during later Ridley periods. As a result, they had not been following very closely the fierce internal political conflict which was rapidly building up at Ottawa and throughout the country in early 1917. The contentious issue was military conscription. The losses suffered by the Canadian Corps had made it brutally clear to Prime Minister Borden and his Conservative Government that the voluntary recruiting system would soon fail to provide enough reinforcements to keep the Canadian Corps in the field as an effective fighting force. To institute conscription required new legislation and an election, and the Quebec nationalists, who had opposed Canada's participation in the war from the outset, were beginning to boil over with emotional outbursts long before the election date was announced. In the House, uproar after uproar occurred. It sometimes seemed that the unpredictable and uncontrollable Sir Sam Hughes, the Minister of Defence, and Henri Bourassa, fiery spokesman for the Quebec nationalists, were the leaders of the Conservatives and Liberals, and not Borden and Laurier, both of whom tried to persuade Parliament to give calm consideration to the grave issues and problems which must be settled.

Long before Canada went to the polls in the historic Conscription Election of 1917 many a Ridley boy took an excited, if purely emotional interest in Canadian politics for the first time. They were green amateur politicians, with simple elements forming their politics. They were enraged by some of the statements emanating from the Quebec nationalists, a natural reaction because the School's patriotic feeling ran deep and strong. They were aston-

ished and shocked to discover that hate for Britain, and bitter antagonism to Canada's participation in the war revealed by the political publicity, could be felt by people calling themselves Canadians. In the heat of the election campaign, the statements by Bourassa and Armand Lavergne, his first lieutenant, made just as large headlines in the Anglo-Saxon areas as the Declaration of War and the sinking of the *Lusitania*. For boys who believed implicitly in "one flag, one fleet, one throne", and that Britain's war was also Canada's and Ridley's war, the attitude of Quebec's nationalists seemed to be sheer treason.

If there had been fault in the failure to teach the youth of Anglo-Saxon Canada more about the viewpoint of Quebec, this was no time to expect understanding. The boys of Ridley only knew that their own Old Boys were locked in the grim struggle in Europe, that they were losing their lives for the principles in which all Ridley believed and that some of them might be dying because of lack of reinforcements. What could it matter to them that Quebec felt it owed nothing to Britain, and nothing to France either? That one was a hated conqueror and the other a despised parent who had abandoned her own in North America?

It has been charged again and again by Liberal politicians that the Conscription Act, proposed, supported and made law by a Conservative Government, was responsible for such a split in Canadian unity that many new life-long, anti-British nationalists were created in Quebec in 1917. The charge was true, but there was a war to be fought to a bitter finish which is ample justification in history for the Conscription Act. Those who kept the conscription issue alive later – for years – in order to win seats in Quebec in election after election had no such justification. Other life-long attitudes were created, too. The bitter animosity toward Britain revealed by the Quebec nationalists in 1917 caused many a Ridley teen-ager, and countless other young Canadians, to arrive at the conviction that the nationalism of the Quebec extremists was based on prejudice and hate, and not on love for Canada or even on love for French Canada. They would believe that all their lives. The 1917 crisis in manpower did indeed split Canadian unity, but it was in more ways than one and not just in estranging the French-Canadian anti-British faction.

In their indignation the Ridley boys naturally noted such things as the number of men of the various nationalities who had enlisted in the First Canadian Contingent. The French Canadians totalled only 1,200 in that first 30,000. The Tory press made sure this was known by all Canada. Because so many Old Boys of Ridley had enlisted at once, nearly all of them Canadian-born, the boys failed to note that, as a yardstick of loyalty, the Canadian-born in the Contingent had nothing to boast about, either. The Contingent was largely comprised of men born in the British Isles. (*Postscript*: Canadian-

born men, including many French Canadians, made up for this slowness later; the grade of reinforcements for the Canadian Corps in 1916 and 1917 was higher than those of any of the armies engaged, British, French and German, and they were largely Canadian-born.)

The victory of Borden's Union Government was hailed with honest delight by Ridley, for it meant that Canada would carry the war through to the bitter end which meant standing firmly behind the fighting Old Ridleians. To them that was all that mattered, and it is difficult to criticize them. It is hoped, however, that some of Ridley's boys remembered Talbot Papineau – like Henri Bourassa a descendant of Louis-Joseph Papineau – of the P.P.C.L.I. who wrote Cousin Henri from the front: "Can a nation's pride or patriotism be built upon the blood and suffering of others or upon the wealth garnered from the coffers of those who in anguish and blood-sweat are fighting the battles of freedom?" Olivar Asselin, the vituperative anti-Bourassa newspaperman, should also be remembered, with the fighting *Van Doos* – the 22nd Battalion, C.E.F., all French Canadians – as proof that the nationalists did not speak for all Quebec. Asselin raised a battalion of French Canadians amid the heat of the controversy but through the stupidity of the Minister of Militia (Hughes) it was shipped anticlimactically to Bermuda. Then there was the colonel of another French-Canadian unit who urged his men to desert rather than to be relegated to similar garrison duty.

The Union Government, organized following victory in the Conscription Election, had a divided Canada as its legacy. There was unhappy significance to the following sharp political division in the seats won in the election:

<i>Ridings</i>	<i>Won by Borden</i>	<i>Won by Laurier</i>
Ontario	74	8
Canadian West	55	2
Quebec	3	62

In the Maritimes the difference was not so strong; Borden had only a 2-1 majority.

The meaning of that tremendous Liberal majority in Quebec was that in a single election Canada had lost nearly all the unity she had gained since Confederation and that the Liberals had been given a slogan as a weapon – "No conscription!" – to help them win Quebec in peacetime elections to come.

Divided, yet steadfast for the most part, Canada got on with the war following the bitter strife at home in 1917, but it seems a travesty that the scars of the real war were the first to heal.

RIDLEY'S SUBDUED PUBLIC DAYS

IT DID NOT take long before the subduing influence of the war and its casualties reacted on Ridley's two traditional annual public events – Prize Day and the annual games. As noted earlier, the former wonderful crowds on both public days were discouraged by Headmaster Miller. The gala atmosphere of the big day for the track-and-field athletes and the speeches by VIPs on Prize Days were dropped for the duration. Parents and visitors were not encouraged to turn up on May 28 for the 1915 field sports, and *Acta* later explained why: "Owing to the terrible war in which our Empire is at present engaged, and the fact that we as a school suffered among the casualties, it was thought to be only in keeping that the games should be held as quietly as possible."

The events were run off in 1915 virtually in private, but by 1917 parents and friends began gathering again in the old way.

In 1916, the Lower School began to hold their own events, and to name their own track-and-field champion. Older Lower School boys were often eligible to enter the Junior and even the Intermediate contests. The four classes of competitors were age-divisions.

ANNUAL GAMES: CHAMPIONS OF THE WAR YEARS

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Lower School</i>
1915	E. A. Wiggs mi	G. B. L. Hostetter	W. A. Woodruff	C. A. Hyde
1916	J. W. Alexander	W. A. Woodruff	C. A. Hyde	C. R. Somerville
1917	H. R. Barr	C. A. Hyde	A. W. Rogers	L. A. McWhinney
1918	J. G. Goldie	A. W. Rogers	D. L. McWhinney	E. E. Campbell

PRIZE DAYS: WARTIME AWARD WINNERS

	MASON GOLD MEDAL FOR TRUE MANLINESS (<i>on the vote of the boys</i>)	HEAD BOY (<i>Governor-General's Gold Medal</i>)	HEAD BOY of the Lower School (<i>Mason Gold Medal</i>)
1915	V. R. Irvine	V. R. Irvine	H. L. Churchill
1916	J. A. Boyd	R. T. Weaver	A. S. Kingsmill
1917	R. A. Wilson	H. B. Meyer	J. G. Glassco
1918	J. G. Goldie	D. C. MacDonald	C. R. Jenkins

President George H. and Mrs. Gooderham had launched the custom of sending Christmas parcels to all Old Boys overseas, but the first fund to be raised in the School had been for relief of the Belgians in 1914, with the youngest boy digging deep into his small spending allowance. The boys continued this generosity throughout the war as fund after fund was raised. The first large sum donated was the entire proceeds from the Dramatic Society's final show in 1914 (and the last until 1917 when Mr. Thomas returned, wounded, from war service). This last play before the Dramatic Club became

a war-casualty was called *The Private Secretary*; it was staged in St. Catharines' Grand Opera House before a fine audience with a good collection resulting for the Belgian Relief Fund. Steacy, Burland, Turnbull, Chandler and Jack Boyd took the male parts and, instead of female impersonators, Miss Nannette Miller, Miss Bessie McSloy, Mrs. Rosa Estrup and Mrs. Powell had been the carefree, merry girls of the bright play.

The most generous donors personally, and also the most persistent cash collectors, were the Fourth and Fifth Formers who had repeatedly sent comforts to V. A. D. Miller for her hospital wards in England. They even organized a minstrel show and donated the proceeds. After Miss Miller had left to return to Canada, a piano reached Queen's Canadian Hospital, Beachborough, the gift of Ridley. She received a cable from the Commandant asking her to thank Ridley and assuring her that a brass plate was inscribed with the donor's name – *Ridley College*. A beautiful pennant of black and orange was then sent overseas as the piano's drape.

The boys also took up a collection for a present to 35th Battalion H.Q. in honour of the five Old Ridleians who were 35th officers; they purchased a field telephone and presented it. They next sent a travelling clock to the C.O. of the 91st Bn. (Argyle and Sutherlands) which was raised in Hamilton with several Ridleians on its strength. They also made a substantial donation to the Red Cross in 1915, and in 1917 even formed a temporary Ridley branch of the Navy League, principally to send comforts to those serving in the Canadian Navy and merchant marine. They had donated to the Hospital for Sick Children at Toronto in 1916 and responded generously to many other later appeals. During the war few Ridley boys did not give at least half their term pocket money to some social appeal or war relief fund. Even the boys of the Lower School dug into their lightly lined pockets and came up with nearly \$10 for relief among the victims of the Halifax explosion. (Naval cadets Adamson, Kingstone and Smith from Ridley had escaped.)

Singing was the great Canadian morale-builder of the 1914-18 war both with the troops in the field and on the home-front – and at Ridley. With Mr. Gore-Sellon conducting and Mr. Griffith at the piano, the Glee Club was restored with energy and general approval. The first full-scale concert filled the gymnasium with full-throated choruses in March, 1915. *Acta's* musical critic listed the leading singers as: *Trebles*, Scatcherd, McAllister mi, Harrison, MacMahon mi, Boulton. *Altos*, Traub, McAllister ma. *Tenors*, Alexander, Andrews, Garrett, Porter mi, Mr. E. O. Seymour. *Basses*, Bullen, Chandler, Gates, Fisher, Mitchell, Turnbull, Wiggs ma, Wiggs mi. The wartime songs of 1914-18 were already familiar, especially *Tipperary* and *Pack Up Your Troubles* and *Mademoiselle from Armentières*, but these were considered too "light" for the programme. The boys were singing and whistling them, however. The most popular Ridley song of 1915: *When You Wore a Tulip and I*

Wore a Big Red Rose. The dancing seniors were soon humming *Dardanella*; and *Oh, Johnnie, Oh* and *For Me and My Gal* were popular. The saxophone was the new instrument in orchestras.

In another year Norman Gilchrist, who later became a noted Canadian musician, organized a Ridley orchestra for "sweet music" – no saxophones. He had instrumentalists: Richardson and Harris vi, first violins; Davis and Jagger, second violins; Fisher, flutist; Williams III, cornet; Traub, violoncello; Bullen, bass viola; Macdonnell and Buchan, banjos; with Mills on the trap and drums. Macdonnell later traded his banjo for a clarinet, but they complained of the need for "orchestra bells". ("Next term we hope for a trombone, a piccolo and a clarinet, as wind and reed instruments are badly needed.") In 1917 and 1918, the orchestra played in Christ Church Hall, St. George's Hall, and gave frequent concerts in the gym, but the boys' appreciation was greatest for the orchestra's music at the Sunday evening chapel services. Unhappily, Norman Gilchrist graduated and Mr. Gore-Sellon left Ridley at Christmas, 1918, and the wartime orchestra then gradually broke up (with a swan-song performance in 1921). Even the Glee Club died out with peace for a while as if morale could now take care of itself.

It would not be missing long because all members of the staff believed in its value, and knew why Dr. Miller had established the Glee Club in Ridley's first year; he held that music, especially singing and particularly group singing, brought people together emotionally and spiritually.

Throughout the war the gym was converted almost every week-end into a motion-picture theatre, and somehow Ridley contrived to show several of the early Charlie Chaplin movies. Anything in the way of slapstick comedy, which was then in fashion, was highly popular with the boys. It did not mean that their aesthetic taste was being contaminated by the "flickers", yet when Colonel Leonard presented a projection lantern to the School in 1919, the slides and travelogues which were shown had great trouble competing with the movies.

It has no relation to anything in particular, but in 1916 Mr. W. H. Moore of Toronto presented Ridley's football team with its first tiger cub mascot. It will be remembered in a glass case above the trophy cabinet in the (then) dining room. This mascot has been preserved and is now in the Matthews Reference Library. (*Postscript*: This first tiger mascot of the football team was neither a Yeldir nor a Hank. During World War II the rugby team's mascot was a toy tiger known as Yeldir which disappeared with Yeldir II and perhaps III also, as he was subject to kidnapping. Mr. Henry Gooderham replaced the Yeldir (Ridley spelled backwards) line with another toy tiger, hence Hank. The present (1959) mascot is probably the third or fourth in the Hank line.)

It was a Ridley custom to proclaim that any new feature which seemed

interesting should be at once given the status of an annual activity; Sergt. Gellateley, gym instructor, believed in this. He attempted during the war to place both swimming and gymnastic displays on the Ridley calendar of annual events. It had been many years since swimming races in the Welland Canal had been a regular Ridley activity, and the cold water had discouraged serious contests in the cement tank of the Old Boy's gym. Sergt. Gellateley scorned this and inspired the boys to brave the water for serious rehearsal and then staged an annual aquatic tournament each war-winter, starting in 1915. Unhappily, the cement tank was already beginning to leak, an affliction which eventually put it out of action, but while it could still be patched up Ridley had swimming and diving champions.

ANNUAL SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONS

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Junior</i>
1915	A. S. Gartshore	A. W. Rogers
1916	A. S. Gartshore	A. W. Rogers
1917	J. G. Goldie	C. E. Greening
1918	(Cancelled: influenza)	

Simultaneously with the revival of swimming, the gymnasts, boxers and fencers were also determined to restore an Assault-at-Arms to its old important annual place. This school athletic display had first attained real success in the late Nineties by Ridley's fencers and boxers with the aid of the bayonet fighters of the 48th Highlanders. Interest then faded, but after the erection of the new gymnasium there had been suggestions and even sporadic attempts to make a new start. It was not until 1915 that a promising series of gymnastic displays finally again developed into contests by the apparatus enthusiasts in an Assault-at-Arms. This dated from March 19, when an exhibition of gymnastics and of marching, bar-bell and club swinging exercises to Miss Kitty Miller's music proved to be a preliminary gym display to a contest for a challenge cup provided for annual competition. It was donated by Mr. H. B. Witton of Hamilton.

Sergt. Williams of Varsity came over at Sergt. Gellateley's invitation to act as judge on March 26. The skill of the sergeant's pupils on the horse, horizontal and parallel bars, the rings and the rope was so good, and the contest was so close and exciting, that Ridley's athletes were at once confident they had one more annual event of first importance. ("The Witton cup is a beauty and will be greatly appreciated by future Ridleians who may have the honour of having their names engraved on it.") The first name to be inscribed was V. R. Irvine, but he defeated H. R. Barr by only a quarter point, with Mills II a very close third. Fifteen gymnasts competed and that great night in the gym was capped by the fencers and boxers, to give it most of the elements of an earlier Assault-at-Arms. Traub defeated Peters in the final bout with the foils. The winners of

the boxing tournament at the various weights were: 110-lb., Williams II; 125-lb. and 135-lb. classes, Bethune; heavyweights, Mulock defeated Jenoure, the latter also being a great cricketer.

An outbreak of measles in the spring of 1916 prevented the juniors of the Lower School from staging their exciting "basketball race" which had enlivened the 1915 gym displays, but they won great applause for it in early April, 1917, when Sergt. Gellateley's gymnasts staged still another fine exhibition. The "annual" competition for the Witton Cup was staged a few days later, on the last night of the Easter term. Barr ma was champion gymnast with 82½ points.

The music for the bar-bell and club swinging displays in 1917 was by Mrs. Laddie Cassels whom Ridley had always known as Nannette Miller. The marriage of the two famous Old Ridleians had taken place very early in the year, but it had been a very quiet wedding owing to the recent death of Mrs. Miller. Nannette and Laddie, who was now recovered from wounds suffered with the 19th Battalion, and was attached to the Air Force, had been married by Archdeacon Perry, Rector of St. Thomas' Church, in the school chapel.

No greater shock had come to Ridley in the rough war-year of 1916 than the death of the Headmaster's beloved wife. After a brief illness, the First Lady of Ridley died from pneumonia three days after Christmas. To help Dr. Miller bear his tragic, sudden loss, his two daughters were fortunately both at home. For Ridley, a charming, gracious and familiar personality had vanished, a lady whose absence from the School's life would leave a gap that could never be filled. Mrs. Miller had been a close, integral part of the Ridley story from the second year of the School's existence. It would be difficult to say more than was written in *Acta* at the time:

"During her illness, we all thought she must recover, for we could not imagine Ridley College without her . . . we cannot reconcile ourselves to our loss, nor as yet take in its full meaning.

"For over twenty-six years she has assisted the Principal in successfully watching over the destinies of the School, to which she came . . . just one year after the College opened.

"In her comparatively short life she has built for herself a monument of good deeds, and kind memories, which will ever stand out in the minds of all who knew her."

As for Dr. Miller, it may be said that the death of his wife marked the point where he began to wish he could turn over some of his heavy responsibilities to others. He turned to scholarly things to find what consolation he could and engrossed himself in editing essays for a book which would tell of the development of the Canadian Commonwealth, the term for his adopted country he had come to believe in and respect. It was published in 1917 under the title, *The New Era in Canada*. His introduction to the work explained his purpose –

To awaken the interest of Canadians in problems which confront us as we emerge from the adolescence of past years into the full manhood of national life.

It was obvious to his friends that he believed Canada's great contribution as an independent British nation would inspire the sense of nationalism whose lack he still deplored and still found difficulty in understanding.

Some of Canada's greatest thinkers, scholars, writers and public-spirited men were among the authors who contributed essays to Dr. Miller's book. They included Professor Stephen Leacock, Sir Clifford Sifton, Sir John Willison, Sir Edmund Walker, Archbishop Neil McNeil, Professor George M. Wrong, John Dafoe, Peter McArthur and others of achievement and intimate knowledge of different phases of Canadian life. Despite his preoccupation with this work and the multiplying problems of Ridley, which was becoming overcrowded with little possibility of extensive repairs, renovation or expansion until the war was over, Dr. Miller spoke at times of resigning as Headmaster, and not long after the war he made this feeling known to the Board.

Another great Ridley personality had died early in the war (1915), Judge T. M. Benson of Port Hope. He had been too remote for close association with the School, but he had been a Ridley founder, a member of the Board since 1889 and his family was a Ridley family. His only son was a vice-president of the Old Boys' Association; his grandson, Gerald Blake who had been Head Boy in 1910, was killed-in-action in 1916; and another grandson, Verschoye Blake, was a student during the war.

Not many of the founders or the original Board of Directors were now living, other than Dr. Miller who had been, of course, much the youngest, and who was not officially appointed to the Board until 1897.

THE need for repairs and renovations grew worse as the war wore on, particularly because every inch of space was taken up by boarding boys. The need was especially noticeable by 1917 after three years of wear and tear without adequate maintenance. The cost of labour and materials, and the uncertainty of the times, dictated caution in new building, but the situation grew worrisome. Nothing of consequence had been repaired or added for some time except the creation in 1914 of a new science lab, located under the chapel.

That Ridley was financially prospering and filled beyond capacity with boarders as early as 1916 was apparent in *Acta's* Christmas issue:

"The past term has been most successful, and all interested in the school may be proud of her showing. The attendance in both schools has been

higher than ever before, due to a record number of new boys entering in September, about 60 in all.

"In fact, our present capacity is inadequate to take care of any more boys than we have at present, and it begins to look as if there must be a further expansion. . . . With such a large school it is gratifying to feel that the work has been well done throughout, the new boys showing a keenness which promises well for future results."

By 1917 the space situation was acute; some applications for admittance had to be refused in September, despite the conversion of the top floor of Dean's House into a dormitory to make space for a few more boys. Ridley had obviously reached its limit in boarders – 120 in the Upper School and about 60 in the Lower School. On September 21 the St. Catharines Committee reported to the Board of Directors:

"We find that the (Lower School) building requires minor repairs of various kinds: the addition of increased lavatory accommodation, enlarged reading room and dining room, and additional room for service. In order to effect these changes it is necessary to provide more residential quarters for the Vice-Principal and his family."

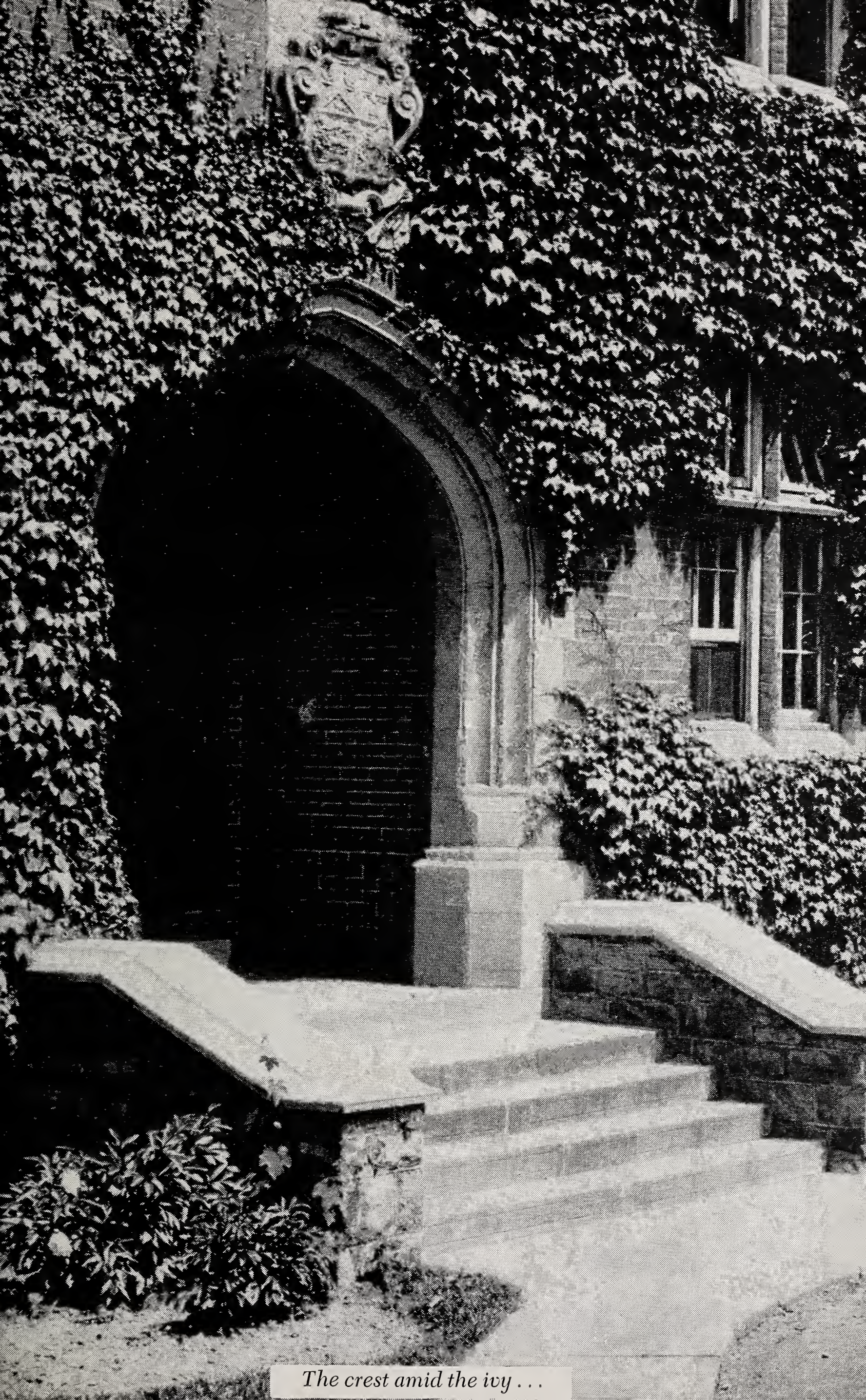
Off the record, Mr. Williams had been supporting Dr. Miller's urgent request by declaring that the Lower School was so dilapidated it was "falling apart". He was campaigning for an entire new school. That would have to wait but other things would be done. If the Board of Directors had been slow to become alert to the School's need, they now acted promptly, meeting at Toronto on September 28. They concurred in all recommendations of the St. Catharines Committee.

A notable feature of the Board's changed viewpoint was its response to Dr. Miller's request for a new building to serve as an isolation hospital. The existing shed-like building (called the Pest House, of course) was indeed "falling apart". The minutes of the main Board meeting on September 28, 1917, at Toronto had carried this item:

"Resolved that the resolution of the St. Catharines Directors as to a hospital building be approved and adopted, and that the work be proceeded with at once."

Sproatt and Rolph, Toronto architects, who had designed the Headmaster's House, were called in and requested to produce plans immediately. As if he had a premonition of the virulent influenza epidemic to come in late 1918, Dr. Miller's sense of urgency continued all that winter. When work began on the isolation hospital building in the late spring he asked that construction be rushed. It was not, but the hospital was ready before the epidemic struck.

The Lower School had its own war-problem, apart from a sad lack of



The crest amid the ivy . . .



THE HEIGHINGTONS

Geoffrey ('11-'13) (left) was killed with the 4th C.M.R. in 1918; Wilfrid ('11-'14) served with the 20th Bn.



H. B. WILLIAMS (left)
('07-'17)
1st Tank Bn.

MAJOR R. M. McLEOD
('95-'98)
27th Bn.



LT. J. A. BOYD (left)
('11-'16)
Royal Cdn. Art.

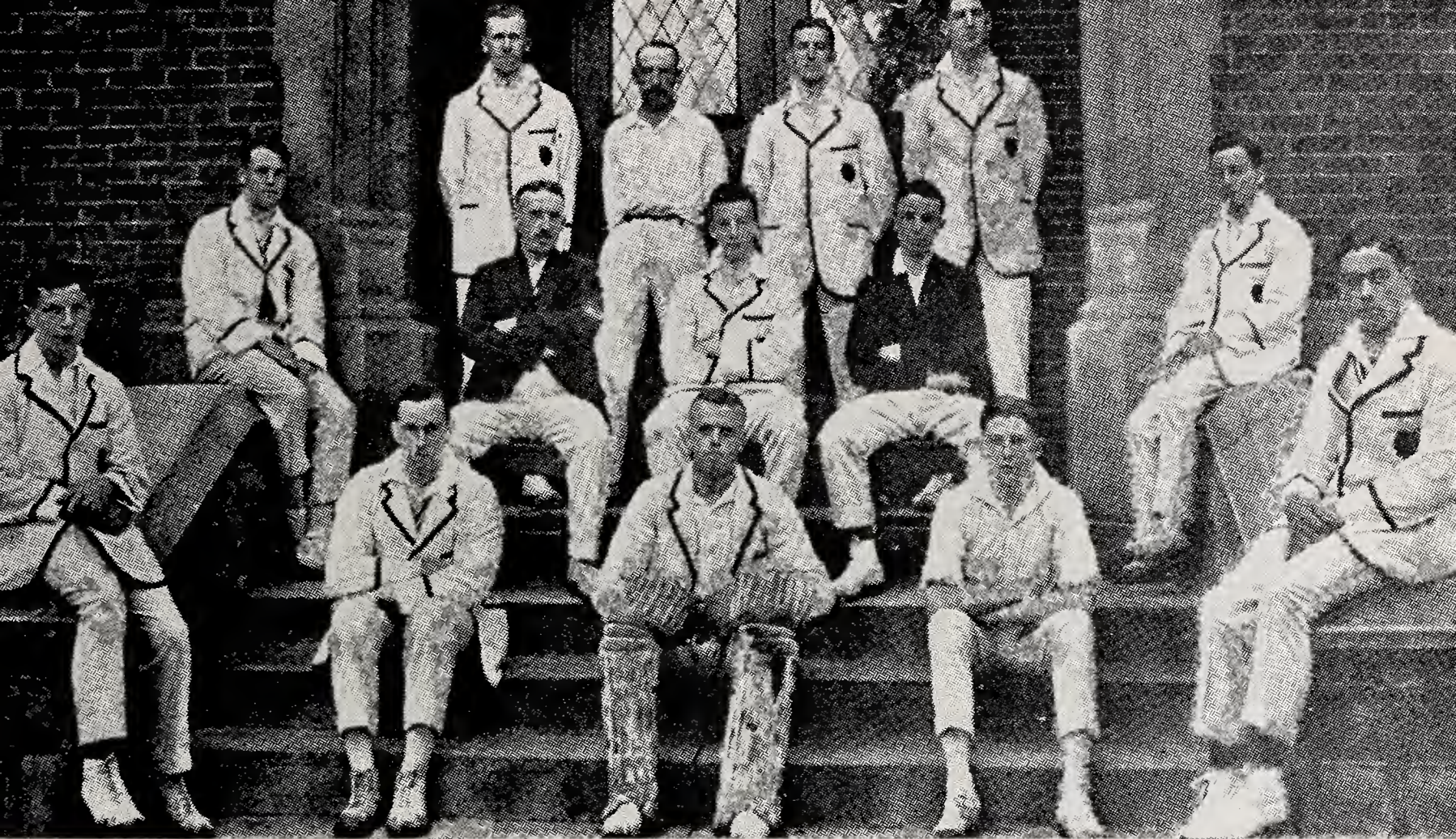
CAPT. C. K. C. MARTIN
('11-'13)
Royal Cdn. Art.



THE MERRITTS

Major (Dr.) W. H. Merritt, Ridley's physician, commanded a battery; his son, T. R. ('03-'14) was also with the artillery.





LBF CRICKET CHAMPIONS, 1917

The team, back row l. to r.: W. P. Goetz; Thomas Coburn, new cricket pro from Lancashire; E. H. Bullen; H. B. Williams. Middle row, seated: W. A. Woodruff; Mr. H. C. Griffith; D. A. Wood, captain; Mr. V. R. Irvine; J. E. Walton. Front row: C. R. Somerville; C. J. Barr; H. R. Barr; D. G. McAllister; A. S. Gartshore. Absent: A. L. McCulloch.



The School Carries On

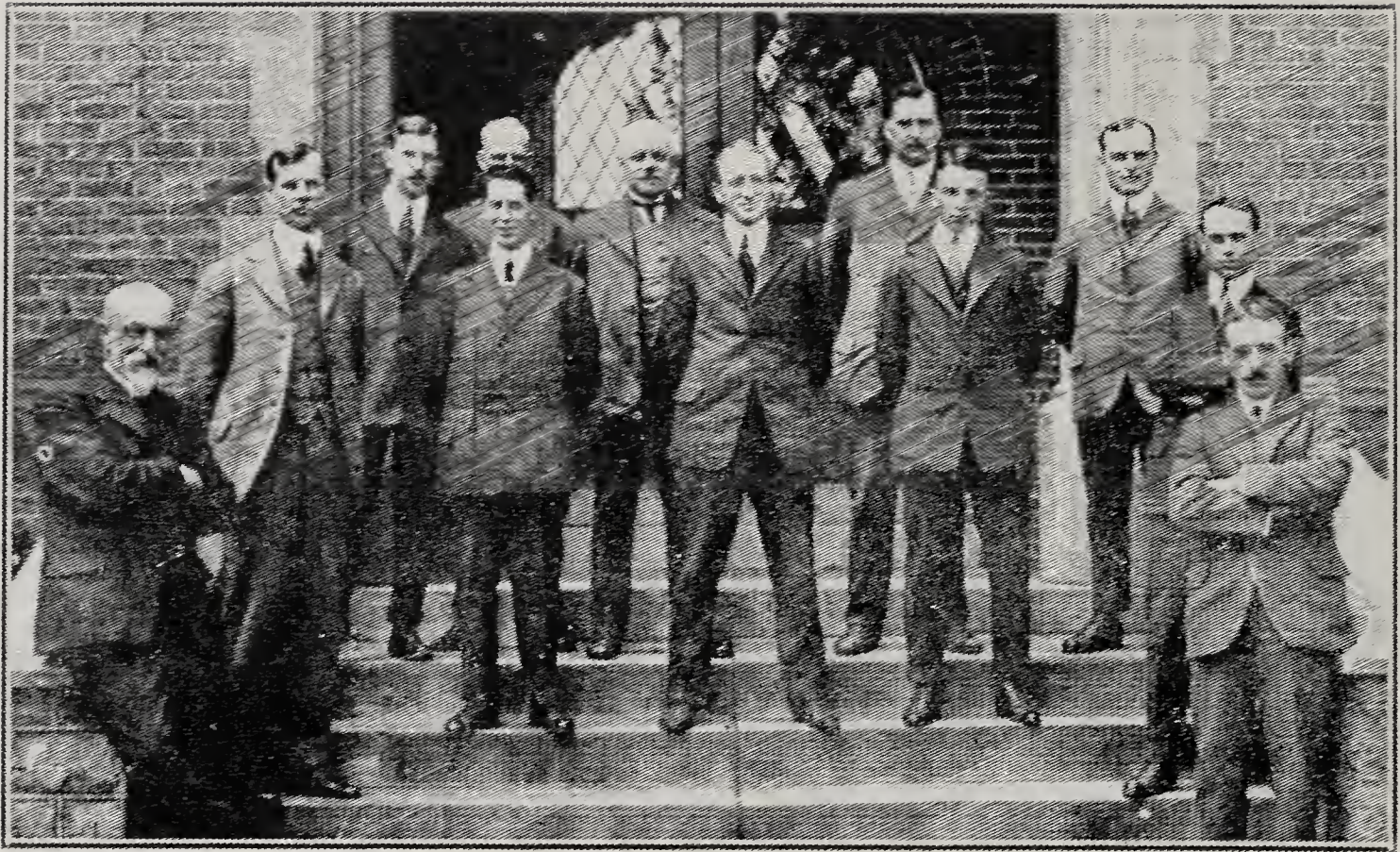
A 1916 Lower School visit to the new Welland ship canal. (Right) Mrs. Griffith and Adam Henry.



Air visit
to Ridley

Jack Leach's
bus

The Academic Staff



THE FULL ACADEMIC STAFF, 1917

The only known photograph of the complete academic staff in the earlier decades. With their period of service, left to right are: Dr. J. O. Miller (1889-1921); Mr. E. G. Powell (1900-46); Mr. J. C. Ashburner (1916-52); Col. George Thairs (hidden) (1889-1924); Mr. W. T. Thompson (1900-40) Mr. G. F. Ward (1916-19); Mr. Gore-Sellon (1913-18); Mr. C. E. H. Thomas (1912-38); just retired from Army service (he was killed in a motor accident in 1938); Mr. Van R. Van T. S. Irvine, an Old Boy, 1907-15, who taught 1916-17 (killed with the R.A.F. in 1918); Mr. J. B. O. Kemp (1916-19); Mr. H. J. Flynn (1907-18) (died from influenza in 1918); Mr. H. C. Griffith, an Old Boy, 1889-96 (1899-1907, 1911-49).

Hard Tires, Rough Roads, But Fun



THE LOWER SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM
off to play Lake Lodge at Grimsby

repairs. It was morale. The war's tragedies did not go so deep in the Lower School as they did among the older boys, but Mr. Williams found he was constantly under pressure to keep his boys active and out of mischief. They seemed eternally restless, with a spirit of unruliness which was hard to control. During the long winter of 1916 he tried an innovation – a sleigh ride for the whole school in two large vans. ("The occupants were never in better voice and to prove it to the satisfaction of the large crowd on the streets indulged in oft-repeated '*One, two, threes*' and other spirited yells. When running behind the sleighs became too tame, a pitched battle was organized in which snow-balls were used for ammunition. When the conflict became too hot, the sleighs proved a welcome shelter from the avalanche of snow that filled the air.") The drive ended as it should – cocoa, hot and satisfying, and doughnuts.

No. II Dormitory of the Lower School was boasting about a unique record: In its various sports, the dormitory had not been beaten in eighteen straight matches. *Acta* was now giving the Lower School its own section to record such things. The boys were pleased.

An earlier excursion which was long remembered by the boys of the Lower School took place on October 11, 1916, when Ridley's historical link with the founder of the Welland Canal, the first T. R. Merritt, was recalled. The boys were transported through the awe-inspiring construction scene of the new Welland Ship Canal. They were first transported by special cars to Port Weller where they boarded flat cars to carry them through the 90-foot-deep cut and a vast tunnel in the new 900-foot lock. While marvelling at the feat of engineering, the boys were probably more interested in the basket of fruit each was given at Welland, the gift of their hosts, Mr. Robertson and Mr. Weller of the construction company.

There was an almost unprecedented fall of snow over the Niagara peninsula in early '17, which meant not only skiing for Ridley, but also tobogganing, with a safe, but thrilling slide built for the private use of the boys of the Lower School. It was an ingenious slide; to avoid having the toboggans swoop over the treacherous and often rough and dangerous canal ice at the bottom, the slide was built diagonally across the hill, a long, safe run which was the scene of many torchlight toboggan parties.

The need to keep busy applied to Canadians generally as well as to Ridley, because the strain of the prolonged strategy of attrition which the machine-gun had forced upon modern armies by creating the trench dead-lock and which neither the new land-battleship, the tank, nor the new air-weapon could yet break, was becoming a psychological monster in its pressure on the home-fronts by late 1916. There was no actual strain on the boys, of course, but they became infected with the mood of the adult world which reflected in a constant restlessness. Everything possible was inserted into the pattern

of school life to keep the boys interested with some things revived and others war-born. If it was the Headmaster's deliberate policy to maintain morale, the boys themselves of both the Upper and Lower Schools seemed happier when engrossed in some activity immediately after class. If they were not occupied with a school sport, a new intense interest was created in academic contests, some new, some old, with the masters urged to insist upon careful preparation and as large a list of competitors as possible. The reading contest which Dr. Miller had established years ago had been overlooked lately; it was revived. He gave his own prize in 1916 to Walter Daniel, judged the winner by a panel of masters. The Challenge Cup for the best essay of the year went to J. C. A. Campbell who chose an exceptionally timely subject, *National Military Service*. Daniel also won the 1916 speaking contest; with A. L. Porter second. The orators were still annually competing for the award established years before by Old Boy A. C. Kingstone, with Dr. Merritt's second speaking prize also always awarded. The following year Dr. Merritt was home from his overseas service as first, the commander of a battery of 18-pounders and then of a field hospital, to witness the contests himself. He was intrigued by the tough time the boy-audience gave the nervous young orators but agreed with Dr. Miller that permitting some heckling was of value in helping the boys to acquire poise and confidence.

The subject-matter the boys chose for their key address (with the Headmaster naming the subject for their second – extemporaneous – speech) revealed that the war was making a deep impression on their young minds. Howard B. Meyer, the first prize-winner in 1916, spoke on *The Future of the British Empire*, and J. E. Buchan, winner of the second award, chose *The History of the Naval Gun and Armour Plate*. G. A. Hodgetts' *Conscription* and J. G. Goldie's *When Britain Entered the War* were equally typical. There was a change of pace in Fred Ings' *The Pleasures of Ranch Life* and C. G. Ashworth's *The Character of Macbeth*, but the latter two subjects were chosen by Dr. Miller, not by the boys. Howard Meyer, the top orator, was later runner-up in the I.O.D.E. essay contest with an article titled: *How Should the British Empire Be Governed?*

The boys of Ridley may not have been as articulate and polished as their counterparts would be thirty and forty years later, in a day of great debates and debating teams, but a good proportion were comfortable when facing a critical audience of heckling boys, and that was the important thing.

THE year 1917 saw a glorious Canadian feat-at-arms in the capture of the challenging bastion on the Western Front called Vimy Ridge, the assault on Hill 70, in front of Loos, and the appalling ordeal of the Battle-in-the Bog, officially called the Third Battle of Ypres, or Passchendaele. It

was another year-long campaign of high cost in the lives of Canadians, many Old Ridleians among them.

The Ridley casualties for April 9 were soon known. It was clear that Old Ridleians paid dearly for Vimy Ridge. Six of them lost their lives in the victory in which four Canadian divisions attacked side by side for the first time and in the follow-up fighting. Lt. Fred (A. J.) Norsworthy (1901-04), who had left Mexico for Canada to enlist as a private but who was soon an officer with the 78th Battalion, was killed in the period of intense shelling four days before the Vimy attack. Lt. J. F. Manley, who had entered Ridley in 1910 to become one of the School's all-time cricket greats, had been voted the Mason Gold Medal by the boys in 1914. He was an officer with the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders when he was killed on Vimy Ridge. Lt.-Col. Dick (R. W. F.) Jones (1896-1901) had gone overseas with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Canadian Contingent; he had visited Ridley while on leave after being wounded in 1915, then had returned to action as C.O. of the 124th Battalion only to die on the famous Ridge.

Gunner Jack (J. L.) Hart (1913-16) had enlisted from Ridley (with Alexander, Wainwright and Lefroy) in 1916 and was killed by a shell fragment beyond Vimy Ridge. Gunner Jack (J. M.) Wainwright, also 54th Battery, had been at Ridley as late as 1916; he was fatally wounded and gassed in the same obliterating shellfire which had killed Jack Hart. Capt. Alfie (A. S.) Trimmer, M.C. and bar (1893-1901), was one of the most popular and best known of Ridley's Old Boys and also one of the best-loved officers of the 10th Battalion where he had a remarkable fighting repute and record. He had won the Military Cross and bar for his fighting leadership in the Ypres Salient and had survived months of hazard only to be killed at last on Vimy Ridge.

Such a cost was bitterly high for one Canadian school to pay, even for an historic victory which many Canadians feel marked the starting point of Canada's adult nationhood. Vimy Ridge had seen the entire Canadian Corps in action for the first time as a complete fighting formation with four divisions attacking in line, and it is true that thereafter there was new international respect for the young nation. But the casualties for Ridley in 1917 had only begun.

Even before Passchendaele the cost of the war on the Western Front, with attrition the only visible strategy, was growing hard to bear in Canada. The casualties had gone on and on for both Canada and Ridley, with the price heavy ever since April, 1915. When those of the Battle-in-the-Bog became known the morale of all Allied nations ebbed seriously. The beat of drums even in the sprightly marching airs of rifle regiments sounded to many like a lament.

Ridley felt the depression, but by some strange quirk of fighting luck the School escaped fatal casualties at Passchendaele. There is no explanation;

many Ridleians fought in Passchendaele's hideous morass, but somehow they all escaped death. In strange contrast, five Old Boys were killed earlier in the comparatively less hazardous weeks of the summer, including four very gallant airmen.

The four Old Boys to die in air-battle in the summer of 1917 were Lt. Bobby (R. G.) Jardine, who had left Ridley in 1904 and was killed in an air-fight back of Vimy Ridge; Lt. Alan F. Gates (1908-15) who did not leave Ridley for R.M.C. until June, 1915, and who then had enlisted with the Royal Flying Corps, was killed in an air-battle over Hill 70, to the left of the Ridge; dying with him on the same day and in the same air fight was another Old Ridleian, Lt. D. C. Sims. The fourth airman to be shot down was Lt. Monty (C. C. S.) Montgomery (1907-13) who had enlisted in a Western battalion and had then transferred to the R.F.C.; he was killed in air-battle on August 14, the day before the Canadians captured Hill 70.

In the follow-up fighting near Lens, Major R. F. Spence (1893), a section commander in Ridley's drill-squad days, was killed while commanding a company of the 2nd Battalion. He had kept in close touch with Ridley for over twenty years and had been a proud man when Ridley finally had a Cadet Corps. An Old Ridleian died of pneumonia in Paris in 1917: Gus (A. L.) Porter who had left Ridley in 1915 for Cornell University and who had gone overseas with an American ambulance unit before the United States entered the war.

During 1917 Ridley heard of the unusual experiences of Capt. Arthur Bishop ('07-'12) who had again proceeded overseas after recovering from his serious wound suffered with the Middlesex in 1915; in 1916 he had been seconded to the Royal Engineers to join a British military mission to the Balkans. It gave Capt. Bishop one of the most interesting experiences of any Canadian officer during the war of 1914-18. They were all military engineers; they surveyed the whole Balkan front to help the War Office decide if it would be practical to land a British Army from the Adriatic, to strike north through the mountains of Montenegro to join with the hard-fighting Serbs. Could an army be transported? Could it be supplied? It was not judged feasible, but the party of engineers had bizarre adventures in Serbia, Albania, Corfu, Salonika and Montenegro. Capt. Bishop was decorated with the Serbian Order of St. Sava. He had already been (in May, 1915) the first Old Ridleian to be awarded the Legion of Honour by France. (The future president of Ridley was also the first Old Boy to be decorated by a foreign government.) In 1917 he was attached to the War Office as a staff officer and in 1918 would have still another unusual experience: until war's end he was on the staff in France of the new Royal Air Force, which superseded the old Royal Flying Corps.

WARTIME FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

The Spare

*No swelling cheers resound for him,
 They hang no laurels on his brow,
 The spare, who risked his neck or limb
 To teach the lauded heroes how.
 They might unbar Fame's guarded gate,
 Using his frame to demonstrate.*

*While others form the fighting line,
 And hear the frenzied cheering grow,
 And feel the glance of eyes that shine,
 He holds their sweaters, crouching low,
 Unnoticed 'mid a battle's din –
 He's made it possible to win.*

– Acta

THE fine prewar Ridley football teams were equalled or even surpassed during the war, with the same fighting spirit which marked the hockey players becoming even more noticeable in the tough body-contact game of rugby. Their spirit may partially explain how they matched and then overwhelmed the powerful rugby teams which St. Andrew's College had been fielding in most of the prewar years. Influenza wrecked the 1918 football season, with Ridley's first team playing only one game (a defeat of U.C.C. 10-6), but in the previous three war-years they only missed being champions of the Little Big Four in all three seasons by a single point. As it was, the exuberant boys sang *We're Champions Again* in both 1915 and 1916 and dismissed the one-point failure in 1917 with the good humour of good sportsmen.

In 1915 Ridley achieved another first: the long-desired feat of being both football and cricket champions of the Little Big Four in the same year. They had been hoping and striving for such an athletic pinnacle for many a year and would later claim it at frequent intervals, but the last time had been back in 1897 before St. Andrew's had made the fourth preparatory school. (Ridley repeated the unique double-championship feat in 1916 and again in 1919.)

J. A. Boyd was football captain in 1915; he had only four old colours of 1914 to help build his new team for six had enlisted. But if inexperienced, and only averaging 147 lbs., they displayed brilliant ball handling, good speed and terrific tackling. Coach Griffith's policy of tackle low and hard had taken hold. They had a preliminary game against St. Catharines' Y.M.C.A., winning 15-6,

then fought the formidable St. Andrew's team to a 15-15 draw on their own grounds. According to Little Big Four rules no overtime could be played, so the game was left a tie, to be replayed if necessary or expedient. It was not replayed because both teams then defeated U.C.C. and T.C.S., and Ridley and St. Andrew's were happy to split the championship. Ridley's footballers were particularly satisfied because they had finally at least held St. Andrew's even; their powerful teams had been running over them since 1912, and Ridley could now smell undisputed victory coming in 1916.

Ridley grew so strong after the tie game, even during 1915, that they defeated T.C.S. 20-13 in a good game in Varsity Stadium, and in the last game of the year swamped U.C.C. by the astronomical tally of 79-4. (Each of the four school teams suffered a lopsided drubbing at some period, but this happened to be not only the worst defeat Ridley inflicted on another team in 59 years (1900-1959) but also the worst shellacking which any team would suffer in the same period of LBF football history. It was actually a freak score.)

There were two sequels to the 1915 football season, not to the victory uproar which was resounding long after *Lights Out* following the final game, but in an overdue change in the game itself as Canadian football gradually improved. All four preparatory schools began to abolish the form-up buck behind the line in 1916 and in another year had advanced football out of its bull-force age. That was an historic change which is worth marking in any review of secondary-school football in Canada.

There were also internal repercussions following the last football game on Ridley's campus in the 1915 season. The ground had been soft and the cricketers, who had been complaining about the way the footballers cut up their cricket pitch, had the evidence in gouged-up turf to illustrate their point. The cricket field was a mess after the footballers had finished with it; the turf was so badly cut up there would be bald patches in the spring. Something had to be done, they pleaded. The Headmaster, a cricketer, listened sympathetically and did it. A stretch of new ground west of the cricket field was ploughed early in the spring and seeded. It was rolled and ready for the football season of 1916, but, for some reason, the A-squad of football never used the new field. The cricket pitch was still defiled by football boots.

Then came Ridley's triumphant 1916, in one sense the greatest athletic year which Ridley had known since 1897, when the preparatory schools had been "the little big three". In that famous year Ridley had triumphed over each of their rival schools in both cricket and rugby – the double championship in a single year which was so tantalizing and rare to achieve. They had achieved it in 1915, but the glory had been somehow diluted because of the tie-championship in football. Not so in 1916; with H. R. Barr, nephew of Biddy Barr, the noted Ridley and Varsity coach at the turn of the century as their football captain, the team made no mistakes; they had a clean sweep in 1916;

no ties. From the first day of the 1916 rugby season in September, the chance of the double-championship had spurred the footballers; the knowledge that the cricketers had done their share in the spring added a pitch of excitement which infected all Ridley. (*Postscript*: Ridley's scorers considered a double championship on the basis of the academic, or school year; the historian records doubles occurring in the same calendar year. The excitement in 1916 made this logical. Please see Appendix 9.)

Perhaps this persuaded Coach Griffith not to try too seriously for early games, which were difficult to schedule; by avoiding injuries he could bring the Ridley team up to their Little Big Four games without the usual preliminary tougheners to gain experience. It worked. Ridley defeated each of their rival schools in order: First they downed T.C.S., 45-10, in Varsity Stadium; then they defeated U.C.C. on their grounds 9-5, and finally rolled over the once mighty St. Andrew's rugby team 28-6.

The day for this final game which meant the 1916 championship – and the double – saw a cold November rain falling during the morning. It left their football field's footing slippery. Playing conditions were anything but pleasant, but it was probably worse for the spectators because a cold, wet wind sprang up to make the side-line throng acutely uncomfortable. A huge crowd of Old Boys had arrived, sensing the great triumph in store, and they stayed to the end, chilled, wet, risking pneumonia but sore-throated and hoarse only from cheering.

Both Mr. Griffith's astute coaching and the leadership ability of field tactician Barr were given great credit for the historic 1916 victory, but the fierce will to win of every man on the team was probably the deciding factor. This had been certainly so in the narrow win (9-5) over Upper Canada.

Perhaps the outstanding individual display of 1916 was Tom Lennard's kicking. A centre-half, he kicked six field goals against T.C.S. in Varsity Stadium, which was certainly a school record and probably also a Stadium record at that time. Ridleians swore it was, but it is difficult to check.

"There was great rejoicing," wrote *Acta's* football reporter, an astonishing understatement. Ridley's displays of enthusiasm had taken on a new touch of robustness due to the war atmosphere, and the joyous wrecking of seniors' rooms and dormitories came close to getting out of hand. The Upper School was in a bedlam that night after the St. Andrew's boys had left for home in defeat. The double-championship for a second year in a row was an historic event. Dr. Miller told the duty master to let them go, short of demolishing furniture. "If they did, they'd have to pay for it." (They did, and they paid.)

Over in the Lower School the boys were still chanting "*R-I-D-L-E-Y! R-I-D-L-E-Y! We're Champions Again!*" long after midnight, despite several dormitory visits by Rep Williams who understood their elation. He knew they were celebrating their own football prowess, too. Their first team, with Sandy

Somerville, the captain, also had a wonderful season; they had scored 206 points against their opponents' 44.

This was the all-conquering 1916 football team: H. R. Barr, captain, right middle, a great field general; T. H. Lennard, centre half, a great kicker; H. A. Irwin, quarter-back, quick in reactions and responsible for maintaining the speed of the team's play; R. A. Wilson, left inside, good both ways. The first-year men were: W. P. Parrish, centre scrimmage, a splendid tackler and star linesman; F. W. Ings, right scrimmage, who let few plays go through him; W. P. Goetz, left scrimmage, always close to the ball; E. H. Bullen, right half, one of the surest players on the team; A. R. Chauvin, left half, effective defensive tackle; G. A. Hodgetts, flying wing, light but fast and a hard tackler; W. G. Fisher, right outside, fast and fearless; C. J. Barr, left outside, filled a difficult position well; A. S. Gartshore, left middle, wonderfully improved on the wing; L. B. Smart, right inside, good line plunger; A. L. McCulloch, right half, subbed for Bullen in the St. Andrew's game and was so good he was awarded his colours.

During the 1916 football season, the Battle of the Somme had been drumming afar, into October, and in 1917 the Battle of Passchendaele was being fought in atrocious weather in the mud of Flanders. But the Canadian autumn gave fine weather for most of the 1917 football season.

H. R. Barr was captain for a second year, and his good field generalship, plus wonderful coaching again by Mr. Griffith, converted a team with little experience into a hard-fighting machine that deserved the championship. Once more several of their finest players had left to join the Army, but this 1917 team was great and made no excuses when they missed winning their third football championship in a row by a single point. They at least had the glory of defeating St. Andrew's again, on their own campus at Rosedale, and of making the finish very close.

They had lost the championship in the first game of the season; they had met U.C.C. while still untried, encountered the toughest team they were to meet and were defeated 9-8. That single point was fatal, but it was certainly no disgrace, and their spirit of "play the game, win or lose" was very evident in their congratulations to U.C.C. and their own good cheer. They next defeated St. Andrew's on their own campus 18-10, and then easily downed T.C.S. 21-1 in Varsity Stadium, the team winding up that night in the York Club where President George H. Gooderham was their host. (*Postscript: The Lower School will not thank us for recalling their frightful football record in 1917, but let us be objective. They scored 1 point during the season, and had 215 points scored against them!*)

Influenza completely wrecked the 1918 football season, but Ridley had beaten U.C.C. 10-6 before the quarantine clamped down.

The short rugby seasons during the war probably inspired the soccer

enthusiasts to organize games starting in mid-November. From now on this would be the soccer season; it had been played intermittently at almost any time. Soccer rose and fell in popularity as usual at Ridley through the war years, but in 1917 the enthusiasts succeeded in organizing a soccer league of eight teams – the Prefects League. They also chose a School team, but it was handicapped in showing its skill and speed by lack of competition. The best they could arrange were return matches with Nichols College, Buffalo, each winning one.

Like the basketball players, the disciples of soccer had to fight the popularity of hockey, cricket and rugby; they never succeeded in having their game reach the level of a major school sport, but they never surrendered.

The Cross-Country Run was now such a time-honoured event it was a major feature of Ridley's athletic tradition, just as the Cross-Country supper which always followed had become such a permanent annual social event that its continuity was unbroken from 1891 until 1918 when influenza cancelled both the race and the supper. The countryside around Ridley was changing with much of the course (seven miles) routed during the war through built-up areas. In 1916 and 1917, the runners, who once struggled through ploughed fields, found themselves racing through a new subdivision, Glen Ridge. Even the "water jump", the familiar spot where spectators used to congregate to see the boys splash across, waist-deep in some years, was a minor obstacle in 1915 which they could take in their stride.

WARTIME CROSS-COUNTRY WINNERS

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>Junior</i>
1915	Leigh	Williams III	MacMahon mi
1916	Ings	Rogers	Hyde
1917	McAllister ma	Naisbitt	McWhinney
1918	(Run cancelled: influenza.)		

The traditional Cross-Country supper on the night of the race continued during the war to attract many Old Boys, but they came without their ladies. The proponents of an all-male Ridley, who had objected to the presence of Old Boys' wives at the Cross-Country supper some years before, seemed to have had their way. At least, the only ladies present in the war years were the matrons, nurses and wives of the staff, and they were only invited to join the men for the toasts and entertainment. This was now the only reason the toast *To the Ladies* was still on the programme, which still included many toasts and responses.

The small boys of the Lower School were eager as a rule to follow the lead of their Upper School heroes, but they balked at this; they refused to be anti-feminists at their first private Cross-Country supper, held in 1917. (It had become necessary because the Upper School was so crowded; the dining

room could not seat them.) Palmer ma and Jeakins called forth loud applause in their support of the ladies. "Their toast *To the Ladies* was replied to in person by one of the fair sex – perhaps the Matron, enlisted by Mr. Williams." This private Cross-Country supper for the Juniors now became a permanent custom. Rep Williams would turn up at the Upper School's affair long enough to reply to the toast to the Lower School and would then go back to his boys.

The cancelled Cross-Country Run in 1918 was a fate suffered by all sports. The devastating influenza epidemic which struck Canada with particular virulence in 1918 washed out all assemblies and all travelling. Even Ridley's Sunday evening chapel services, which both masters and boys would have said nothing could stop, were discontinued. When Ridley's students attended St. Thomas' Church on Sunday, March 19, 1919, it was the first Church service they had attended for many weeks.

By great good fortune – Dr. Miller and the chaplain said it was the hand of God – Ridley's new isolation hospital had been erected and opened in time. It was ready for the first 'flu patient. Many boys were seriously ill. Through the natural resistance of the young, plus special-duty nurses obtained on the Headmaster's demand by Mr. Griffith and the tireless attention of Dr. Greenwood, all pupils recovered, but a nurse, Miss Bush, and one of Ridley's most popular masters, Mr. H. J. Flynn, were both victims of the 'flu. Mr. Flynn had just recovered from an earlier illness. He had come to Ridley from De Veaux College in 1907 and had been teaching French in the Upper School for ten years. Always known affectionately as Micky Flynn he had married the school nurse, Miss Lillian Tobias, in 1914. The entire school was pleased when she decided to remain at Ridley after her husband's death, resuming her old post as nurse.

The signal that quarantine would be relaxed in the spring of 1919 came when "Lent was ushered in with a pancake supper prior to the fast, with 265 pancakes devoured by 35 boys in record time in the Lower School alone."

We again owe a debt to the anonymous Old Boy who recorded his memoirs of Ridley many years later. Here are his recollections for the war-years:

"Do you remember in 1914? . . . The battles in the old rink – 'Which of the three will champions be, old Port, the City, or B. R. C.? . . . Ridley was completing its twenty-fifth year . . . Jack Manley, Bidy Barr and George Hostetter won the championships on Sports Day . . . Sandy Somerville played cricket for the first time and won the Lower School batting average . . . There were three grass tennis courts and whoever got the end seat in Chapel got the first game after tea . . . The chorus at the old Grand Theatre as seen from the 'peanut gallery' . . . August the 4th . . . Mickie Irvine in front of the S. A. C. six-man (1,000 pounds) bucks and the score only 40 to 6 for St. Andrew's . . . There were 45 Old Boys on Active Service by Christmas.

"Do you remember in 1915? . . . Mr. Gore-Sellon organized a Glee

Club and at the concert Alan Gates sang *Boys of the Old Brigade* . . . Dr. Chapman gave a series of First Aid lectures . . . A good joke was, 'If Toronto's greatest actress had her choice of motor cars, would Mary Pick-Ford?' . . . The new lab was opened under the chapel (now the Assembly Hall) . . . The field south of the gym was seeded for the first time . . . the Cadet Corps engaged in a field day at Niagara-on-the-Lake. . . . The Band and Signallers were put off the car by mistake five miles from the rendezvous and unwittingly marched clear through the enemy's lines . . . The School farm was in flourishing condition and produced an average of 80 bushels of oats an acre . . . There were 179 Old Boys on Active Service.

"Do you remember in 1916? . . . one afternoon a representative of the Edison Gramophone Company began a concert of records (cylinders) at 3 p.m. The concert finished at 6 p.m. and was received with rapt attention throughout . . . Biddy Barr, Lick Goetz, Cro Bullen, Boy Fisher, Don McAllister, Shrimp Mills, Alan Moore, Park Thompson, Sam McAllister, Pup Harrison (ma), Shorty McDonald, Colin Scatcherd, Charlie Boulton, Ted MacMahon, Whiskers Walton and George Thorpe gave a minstrel show . . . In June, twelve of the sixth form went directly into uniform.

"Do you remember in 1917? . . . Buying buns at recess from the baker in his horse and wagon . . . The Chinese waiters in the dining room . . . During cricket term five boys left from the sixth form to enlist and three from the fifth to do farm work . . . The Lower School eleven, greatly daring, travelled to Lake Lodge (in Grimsby) on an open truck. Engine trouble caused them to be two hours late in arriving. A storm forced them to spend the night at the Village Inn . . . Nearly twenty-four hours for a thirty-six mile trip . . . the winners on Sports Day were Biddy Barr, Dutch Hyde, Alf. Rogers and Leighton McWhinney . . . The School consisted of 170 boys, 14 masters, 2 matrons, 1 nurse, 6 buildings, 5 football fields and 1 open rink . . . The sham battle at the Inspection — Blank cartridges and fire-crackers . . . The movies (produced by the Pathescope Company) on Friday evenings which were sometimes run backwards to make them really funny and for which Mr. Gore-Sellon provided the music . . . there were 320 Old Boys on Active Service.

"Do you remember in 1918? . . . Boys brought their own jam and cereal to tea . . . Mr. Williams' house was added to the old Lower School . . . The old rink burned down at 4.30 a.m. on May 8th . . . The Pest House was ready in time to look after the great 'flu epidemic . . . There was a false armistice celebration on November 7th and the real one on November 11th . . . Whistles and School bell at 5 a.m., Cadet Corps parade to town, no School all day . . . The chorus-girl at the Grand who serenaded John Labatt Reid with 'I want a doll' . . . About 450 Old Boys were on Active Service.

THE SECOND RIDLEY FIRE: THE RINK

THE boys had just heard that their remodelled Lower School meant new schoolboy cleanliness – “every boy is now able to have two or three hot baths a week” – when the dreaded cry of “Fire!” awoke Ridley in the dark dawn of May 8, 1918. A Ridley building was in flames!

An angry red glow at the south end of the campus must have brought back a frightening memory to any of the staff who had been at Ridley in 1903. It was 4.30 a.m. when the alarm woke them, and those at the windows of the Upper School could not discern what was burning. The boys of the Lower School were able to see that it was their 18-year-old Nicholls’ Hall, their precious rink! The fire brigade had been summoned, but by the time the School was fully awake all knew there was no hope of saving the building; it was already a roaring mass of flames, with everything enveloped.

The fire had started in the pig pen, a building of the farm; a stove used for heating feed had apparently flared up during the night, perhaps lit by a prowler; the dry wood of the old building burned furiously and had ignited the end of the rink. The firemen were only able to save the adjoining barns and stables with a minimum of damage.

The Board of Directors at once proved their awareness of the great value of the rink to school spirit in the winter months; plans for a new rink were ordered, and by autumn it was rapidly being completed west of the gymnasium. (The first hockey practice was on February 5, 1919.) The ice surface was 75×161 feet, with the western end constructed to permit expansion at low cost. (“With the school growing as fast as it is, it will not be long before the rink is too small.”) The new rink had spectator space on both sides (instead of on only one) and an armoury was incorporated for the Cadet Corps.

There was one wartime excitement at Ridley which all boys of the war years remember; as the training fields of the air force grew in number, more and more young pilots – and even some veteran instructors – could not resist the impulse to swoop over Ridley’s campus to “buzz” the boys. When they narrowly missed the Upper School’s roof the boys loved it even if the Headmaster shook his head at the recklessness of youth. After a flying school was established at Beamsville aircraft always seemed to be in sight, and more than once the boys were enthralled by demonstrations of squadron-stunting in formation. In 1917, on the day of the St. Andrew’s College cricket match, Ridley’s campus looked like an aviation field for the afternoon. One-legged Capt. J. O. Leach, M.C., flew in for the game. Another Old Boy, Capt. Scandrett, M.C., came in as a passenger with Fl.-Lt. Kennedy. Then Capt. Laddie Cassels, M.B.E. flew from Camp Borden with Capt. McGregor at the controls. A number of seniors were placed on guard over the three machines, and the camera enthusiasts were busy.

The pilots' great delight was to disrupt a Ridley cricket game. One fine summer day in 1917 Mrs. Griffith had just placed her son, Adam, outside in his baby carriage, when a plane swooped low above her diving for the cricket field. It made a direct hit – with a large splash of oil on her spotless baby blanket.

By late 1917 this reckless exuberance of the youths who were training for war-in-the-air, in which the death-ratio was chillingly high, was the only factor which was preserving for the boys of Ridley a little of the glamour and excitement of war which had been part of their boyhood dream. Ridley's private casualty lists were making war bleak and grim even in the eyes of a boy. It was worse in 1918, the last year of the conflict.

Few things eased the weight of the war on Ridley in the last, long year of the Kaiser's war. Despite the inspiring news of the breakthrough by the Canadians at Amiens on August 8th, the casualty lists were grim reading for Ridley in 1918. In fatal casualties it was Ridley's most bitter year. In 1915 five had died with the fighting services; in 1916, fifteen had been killed in action; in 1917 the toll was sixteen; but in the victory-year a total of twenty-five Old Ridleians made the supreme sacrifice. Ridley's deaths in 1918 began in January when Lt. J. G. Scott (1900-08), who had lived in St. Catharines, was killed while flying with the R.N.A.S. on January 13, and they did not end until just before the Armistice in November when Col. C. Van Straubenzie, who attended Ridley from 1890 until entering R.M.C. in 1893, was killed while leading the Royal Canadian Dragoons in the last major offensive by the Canadians and British in World War I.

The Miller household had been stricken when the popular and gay Boozer (J. W.) Alexander ('05-'16) was killed with the artillery during the night before the Battle of Amiens opened, which was at dawn. He was Mrs. Miller's nephew, a great wicket-keeper, full-back and hockey forward. (He was called Boozer because of an episode with hard cider bought at the store.) His brother, Jack (J. P.) Alexander ('00-08) survived service with the R.A.F. to fly with the R.C.A.F. Atlantic ferry service during World War II. Ed. (E. F.) Thairs ('04-'12), Colonel Thairs' son, was also killed at Amiens, serving with the 3rd Battalion. Douglas Colin Sims ('05-'06) was still another airman to die on that now historic date, August 8th.

The Old Boys' Association risked planning a gathering in Toronto in 1918 – The Khaki Dinner – and were agreeably surprised when nearly fifty loyal graduates turned up, fifteen of them in uniform and several others in mufti who were still in the services. To hold a dinner in 1917 had been a vain hope, but in 1916 a meeting had been held, with Major Alex Snively acting as chairman; the 1916 chairman, D. S. Robinson, was overseas with the army. Major Snively was then elected chairman and reported that Lt.-Col. Frank Burton was the first Old Ridleian to be given command of a battalion; he had the Bantams (though Frank was over six feet himself). The Khaki Dinner in

1918 was hugely enjoyed and had its gay moments, but all conversation kept turning to the men who were gone, all thoughts were on the painful gaps in the ranks of the Old Ridleians. Never was the familiar Ridley toast in the form of the School song given with such deep feeling –

*Here's to battles fought and won,
Here's to heroes who have gone,
Here's to every worthy son
of Ridley!*

Major Snively turned over the presidency to Lt. Joey (R. C.) Lee, M.C. Ross Hargraft was 1st Vice and Major C. S. Dalton, second. The committee for reorganization was: Capt. H. Cassels, M.B.E., D. N. Gooderham, Capt. Jack Leach, Eric McDougall and W. E. Caldecott. There was little reorganization to be done. The Honorary Secretary, H. C. Griffith, had held the Association together so well, writing hundreds of letters, that all the Association had to do was to re-start and continue.

The end of the war came to Ridley as it did to all Canada with a false demonstration, but four days later the true Armistice came at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, with a deep thankfulness subduing their joy. The Cadet Corps' bugle band took its place in a monster parade in St. Catharines, for it was easy to blow a horn and beat a drum, but somehow the feeling that they should be praying in thankfulness, not cheering, stole exuberance from the spirit of celebration.

With remarkably few exceptions bravery was a common denominator of all men who served in action. Decorations were awarded only for those instances of gallantry and self-sacrifice which were seen, reported and recorded, a mere fraction of the brave episodes which were lost in the chaos of day-battle or passed unseen in night-fighting. The following orders and decorations awarded to Old Ridleians are very incomplete; only those which happened to come to the School's notice are included in the list. Yet, it may still indicate something of the fine fighting leadership and personal courage which the Old Boys of Ridley displayed.

ORDERS AND DECORATIONS

Order of the British Empire	1
Distinguished Service Order	10
Bar to D.S.O.	2
Distinguished Service Cross	1
Military Cross	20
Bar to M.C.	3
Member of the British Empire (MBE)	1
Foreign Decorations	2
Mentions in Despatches	(unknown)

While loyalty and sacrifice cannot be measured by statistics and percentages, a recourse to war's bloody bookkeeping is essential to disclose the extent of Ridley's contribution to victory and the cost. An indication was provided by the Headmaster in mid-1918. During a formal address of welcome to His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire, K. C. B., G. C. M. G., G. C. V. O., Governor-General of Canada, in June, 1918, Dr. Miller said:

"It may interest your Excellency to know that, in common with all similar schools in the Motherland and in the Dominion, Ridley College has sent forth to fight in the common cause a large number of its old boys.

"Of about 800 boys who have passed out of the School since its inception, nearly one half are on active service. About one tenth of these have been killed-in-action, and at least another tenth have been wounded."

The Headmaster's proudly offered account of the Old Ridleians-at-war understated their contribution to the victory-to-come, both in the extent of their sacrifice and the remarkable proportion who served. More would die in the bloody months between June and November and, in addition, the proportion of their enlistments was probably higher than Dr. Miller's estimate; no one knew the number of enlistments among the one-quarter and more of the total Old Boys who had lost touch with Ridley. The true proportion of enlistments among those who were still living in 1914, and who were physically able to fight, must have been astonishingly high. So high indeed that it was incontestable proof of an almost unanimous desire to serve.

The cost in lives of Ridley's military tradition, so steadfastly created during the war of 1914-18, totalled sixty-one officers, non-commissioned officers and men.

A record was not kept of the wounded. They numbered in scores.

It was inevitable that such a manifestation of selfless service should leave an indelible mark on Ridley. When a new boy now enters the hushed peace of the Memorial Chapel, which soon stood in honour of Ridley's war dead, he senses their great gift to the School and its meaning, something that is far beyond mere tradition. The Honour Roll of Ridley's dead represents an allegiance to the principles by which honourable men live. It added new strength of spirit to the School as it bequeathed an institutional greatness which will last while Ridley lasts.

Dr. Miller, First Headmaster, Retires

"No Old Ridleian will scorn the sentimental emotion in the feeling that a school can possess a soul, for they know of Ridley's. . . . And its chief architect was the white-bearded, scholarly Headmaster who had instilled his ideals and high principles, fostered the Ridley spirit and shaped the School's philosophy over so many years."

THE FEELING of relief and deep thankfulness that peace had come at last to the anguished world was linked at Ridley, as it was everywhere in Canada, to a purposeful determination to reconstruct quickly and to start seriously planning again for the future in the old confident way. There was a period of bemused uncertainty between great strain and the sudden freedom from fear, but it was brief. Ridley's intake of new boys in September, 1919, had kept the School's accommodation taxed to the limit, with everyone busily occupied from the first day of the new term, so there was little time in November and December to pause to savour the wonder of life from which the weight of war had suddenly lifted. By the time the boys had reassembled after their Christmas holidays Ridley was getting on with the peace.

The boys' college, founded and opened in St. Catharines in 1889, had reached its thirtieth year. Ridley felt mature, older than her years. The pattern of both the academic and athletic phases of her life seemed to be and were far past the period of experimentation, except for the ceaseless, healthy impulse to try new things. Ridley was imbuing its people with the feeling that the founders' hopes and dreams had already been brought to reality. This was true, and it had been achieved with full respect for the dream. The materialistic view that education is primarily to provide a good income and a secure place in the right social stratum had never prevailed at Ridley over the idealism of the dream. It still does not. There is no sign that it ever will.

The word which best expresses the mood of Ridley in 1919 was confidence; as the Great War ended the atmosphere of the School was that of a secure, firmly established institution, ready to go on to greater things.



A. F. GATES
('06-'11)
R.A. (Killed, 1917)



H. L. HOYLES
('93-99)
42nd Bn. (Killed, 1918)

Toll of Ypres and the Somme



G. E. BLAKE
('03-'10)
Ox. & Bucks. (Killed, 1916)



H. V. WRONG
('08-'09)
Lancasters (Killed, 1916)

C. C. S. MONTGOMERY
('08-'13)
R.F.C. (Killed, 1917)



A. S. TRIMMER
('93-'01)
10th Bn. (Killed, 1917)





W. D. P. JARVIS
('02-'11)
3rd Bn. (Killed, April, 1915)



W. H. V. VAN der SMISSEN
('03-'08; '12)
3rd Bn. (Killed, June, 1916)

They Died in the Spirit of Service



W. L. L. GORDON
('05-'08)
2nd Bn. (Killed, April, 1915)



J. A. CHESTNUT
(1912)
R.A. (Killed, December, 1915)

LT. J. H. INGERSOLL
('03-'13)
R.F.C. (Killed, Sept., 1916)



H. M. WILSON
('05-'08)
48th High. (Killed, June, 1916)



G. A. G. MACKENZIE
('93-'99)
16th Bn. (Killed, May, 1915)



The war had of course hurried this feeling of institutional maturity. In normal times this grows gradually, much of it from the accumulated contributions of graduates to the national life. For Ridley the war was a short-cut; the great sacrifice of her Old Boys to the national sovereignty of Canada had been so clearly realized and understood it was a matter of intense, if inarticulate pride for the youngest new boy and the oldest master. Nothing could take that pride away. Ridley unconsciously felt she had come to greatness.

It was in the full sense of this that the task of renovation and reconstruction was faced. The school buildings were not only overcrowded, much repair work and refurbishing was long overdue. Growth and expansion were in all minds. It had seemed obvious all through the war that plans for a larger school were inevitable. The Headmaster, and several Directors, too, were convinced even in 1917 that Ridley had marked time long enough. The rising number of applications for admittance could no longer be dismissed as caused by some passing popularity. Instead, the School had clearly won a permanent high place in public regard.

In addition, Canada's population in proportion had grown much faster than Ridley's since 1889 and particularly since 1905 and 1908, the last years in which the School had made an important space extension. There had also been an unmistakable advance in the Canadian attitude toward education, emphasized by an increased public desire for preparatory and higher education. To expand Ridley thus appeared thoroughly sound.

There was no real opposition, but all knew in the early months of 1919 that it would take time. Even reorganization of the academic staff, just to bring it up to essential requirements, had to be postponed, but Dr. Miller and his vice-principals, Mr. Griffith and Mr. Williams, were intensely preoccupied with a detailed report on student overcrowding. They were going to be very frank. The new rink was nearly completed and wartime improvements had placed the Lower School in better shape, but in mind were the most ambitious building projects Ridley had yet considered. The report would soon be ready. (*Postscript:* It is interesting that in July, 1918, Mr. Jabez Newman of St. Catharines, who had been asked to evaluate the buildings and their contents on the Ridley grounds for the purpose of insurance, presented an estimate of \$268,000.00, a considerable sum for those days and an indication of the extent of building which had already been done.)

It had been known in the autumn of 1918 that the Old Boys had a wonderful building project of their own in mind. The Association proposed to build a Memorial Chapel in honour of the Ridleians who had paid the supreme sacrifice and they saw no need to wait, at least not for the fund-raising. There might be complications in financing the needed renovations and creation of a larger school, but nothing of that sort was going to delay the Memorial Chapel. The Fund Committees' officers were Major Alex Snively, chairman;

Mr. W. S. Greening, secretary; and Mr. E. H. Anderson, treasurer; and they knew by the enthusiastic reaction of the Old Ridleians at the very outset that the proposal had been an inspired one. Approval among the Old Boys was solidly unanimous. During the winter and spring of 1919 several fund-committee branches were organized: Mr. H. Gerald Wade was president of the Western Branch, with its office at Winnipeg; Mr. Williams and Mr. Griffith went to Montreal to help at the organizational dinner of a Montreal and Quebec Branch, of which Mr. Carl Riordon was chairman; at Buffalo, in the early summer, Mr. Griffith was a guest at the district organizational dinner, with Old Boys E. G. Riselay, Buffalo, and E. P. Pfohl, Niagara Falls, N.Y. the working committee.

Only success could result from such enthusiasm. By the early spring of 1919, \$10,000 had been collected; by Easter nearly \$50,000 had been raised, including \$2,000 collected by the students; by midsummer Sproatt and Rolph, Toronto architects (who were also architects of the University of Toronto's Hart House) were asked to prepare plans for the most noble Ridley building of all. Nothing must be permitted to delay it but postwar shortage of materials.

The Armistice had brought no actual change in Ridley's rules and regulations, but there was a general tightening of control over a lot of things which had been relaxed during the war. The habit of forgiving schoolboy misdemeanors because they seemed inconsequential in the face of the monstrous crime of war was ended. The behaviour standard stiffened. An Old Boy recalls: "Excuses were so closely examined by the masters they were turned inside out." Everything which was not as it should be was no longer excused with the Frenchman's shrug *C'est la guerre*, which had become universal. Ridley was busily getting back to the ways of peace.

The boys who were detention-prone were shortly cheering that one punishment would soon no longer be suffered; an end was in sight of "outside detention on the farm". The Board was getting rid of an administrative problem; Ridley was retiring as operator of a dairy farm. The Headmaster was also cleaning up his personal affairs, including his farming side-line.

In May, 1914, the original Ridley farmlands had been extended by renting the old Boyle farm from the Cataract Power Co., and the College turned dairy farmer. At the same time, the President and the Headmaster had jointly purchased a private farm (The Lakeview Stock and Fruit Farm) at Stamford. Dr. Miller had remained an enthusiast for Holstein-Friesian cattle until 1919, when it became obvious to him that the Stamford property was only an expensive hobby, certainly not a profitable one, and that the school farm itself was such an administrative headache it was not worth its trouble. The Stamford farm was sold and Mr. Summers took over the Ridley farm. He paid \$6,500 for the Ridley land, livestock and implements, but until the

purchase could actually be consummated he ran it at a yearly rental of \$300 and supplied Ridley with fresh milk. But in 1919 the sentences to hard labour on the farm were happily terminated; there would be no more milking, manure forking, weeding or hoeing as punishment for transgressors.

Early in the spring of 1919 there was further advice on the creation of the Leonard Foundation, whose scholarships would mean much to Ridley and other colleges and schools. Word of the Foundation had been well known to the Board and the staff, but it was not until 1919 that parents also began to understand that the Foundation's scholarships would surely mark Colonel R. W. Leonard of St. Catharines, a director of Ridley, as one of the great Canadian educational philanthropists of his time. The Trust Deed stated the purpose, and designated both the boys of the parent groups who would benefit and the schools to which the bursaries would apply. The Foundation's scope was later widened until it settled into its present form in 1923, but the first grants made in 1917 were to the sons (and later daughters) of clergymen or school-teachers who were British subjects, or of officers, non-commissioned officers or men of the permanent British or Canadian Army or Navy, or of veterans who had taken part in any of the British Empire's wars.

Ridley was specifically mentioned in the original Trust Deed together with Wycliffe College, the Royal Military College (Kingston) and the Royal Naval College (Halifax) as the institutions which were to benefit, but later the list included many other selected colleges and universities from coast to coast. The boys and girls would be selected from the applicants each year by a committee appointed in the manner specified in the Trust Deed. (The present 25-member Committee is composed of representatives of organizations across Canada who are both in sympathy with the objects of the Foundation and in a position to deal with applications.)

As the awards of the Foundation were extended to include children of all classes named in the Trust Deed, the expressed intention of Col. Leonard was honoured in all aspects. It still is. He clearly stated the types of schools and universities for selection and those which enjoyed his approval were specifically named. His deep belief in the British connection was disclosed in *The Principles Underlying the Foundation*, this document saying in part:

The underlying principles upon which the Leonard Foundation is based rest in the belief of the founders that . . . the progress of the world depends in the future, as in the past, upon the maintenance and spread of the Christian religion; and the stability and prosperity of the British Empire are essential to the peace of the world and the advancement of civilization. . . .”

Because of Col. Leonard's confidence in Ridley, hundreds (literally) of her

boys have since been aided by the Leonard Foundation and within ten years the College itself would be the recipient of a magnificent gift from Colonel Leonard.

The minutes of a February 1917 Board meeting recorded the reading of a letter from The Toronto General Trusts Corporation, the Trustee under the Leonard Foundation Trust Deed, requesting Ridley, as a participating Institution, to name its representative to the Foundation's Board. Dr. Miller was appointed, but in 1920 he was anxious to turn responsibilities over to others for he was going off on a year's travel-holiday and was planning to retire. In June, 1920, Mr. Williams reported that he had been nominated by Dr. Miller to take his place on the Foundation but, in October, Mr. Williams moved at a Ridley Board meeting that "Mr. Griffith be appointed to represent the Board on the Leonard Foundation". The motion was carried simultaneously with another to record the appreciation of Ridley:

"The Board of Directors deeply appreciate the action of Colonel R. W. Leonard in instituting the benefaction known as the Leonard Foundation, and in recently greatly enlarging its scope; the Board is gratified to know that Ridley is one of the chosen institutions at which the beneficiaries of the Foundation may be educated, and is also proud that the founder of the benefaction is a member of this Board."

RETURN TO THE WAYS OF PEACE

SOCIALLY, the hockey dance, a new departure, held on February 25, was distinctly the highlight of Ridley's first postwar social season and a clear indication that Ridley was back to the ways of peace. The Cadet Corps were not yet ready to revive their annual dance of the pre-war years, so the hockey dance filled in, with the accommodation taxed to take care of all the visiting ladies. The school orchestra, busily rehearsing with the Dramatic Society, provided excellent dance music directed by Mr. Thompson. (The following year there would be a football dance pending restoration of the Cadet Corps dance as Ridley's outstanding social function.)

Two "important personages" visited the School during the first winter of peace. The first was Mr. John Dafoe, famous editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, who spoke to the school of the Paris Peace Conference and fascinated the boys with his factual tales from the spectacular career of Col. Klondike Joe Boyle who had been born in Woodstock and had led a life of high adventure in Russia and Rumania during the war. (His story was told in *Brother, Here's a Man!* by Kim Beattie, published by Macmillan, N.Y., in 1939.) The second V.I.P. to visit Ridley was President E. W. Beatty of the C.P.R., newly appointed to Ridley's Board of Directors who arrived with Mayor Thomas Church of Toronto.

There was so much indoor activity and entertainment going on in these winter weeks that the lights were on late in both the gymnasium and the newly completed rink on six nights out of seven.

The mild winter weather in 1919 ruined tobogganing and most outdoor activities, except hockey, but there was so much indoor entertainment and the tempo of school life had so accelerated that cricket-time and the spring seemed to burst upon them. Influenza was still rampant in some Canadian areas, but Ridley was nearly immune.

The most worrisome problem was the shortage of masters. Mr. Gore-Sellon, music, and Mr. J. B. O. Kemp, who had taught science since 1916, had both left Ridley for business careers which emphasized that the staff in 1919 was down to an overworked nucleus. There was no hope of getting the needed additions as yet, but in the fall of 1919 the following new masters came to Ridley: Mr. W. T. Comber, English and history; Mr. W. D. Deagle, science; Mr. M. E. Doorly, history; Mr. W. D. Evans, moderns.

Unhappily, during 1919 there were still more war casualties among Ridley's Old Boys to be recorded. *Acta's* Easter issue again published the list of Ridley's war dead; it had been revised but it was still not quite complete. The editors were uncertain of the fate of several. Pte. K. Cameron (15th Battalion, 48th Highlanders) had been reported killed-in-action, but it was unconfirmed and there had been no other word. Two other Ridleians with the Royal Air Force were also still marked missing: Lt. Micky (V. R.) Irvine and Lt. John Gordon. They had been shot down in the summer of 1918. Only Pte. Cameron was not to be listed with Ridley's war-dead. The total was given in the re-printing as 57; it would finally grow to 61, including the name of Capt. Peter Richardson who died in February in Coblenz while with the U.S. Army and was buried with full military honours. ("No more loyal Ridleian ever left our walls, and few had more friends.")

The first postwar editorial committee to produce *Acta Ridleiana* was formed of two masters, Mr. E. G. Powell, who had acted as senior editor for years, and Mr. M. Brockwell; plus the Prefects; and also Norsworthy, Somerville II and Reid II. In 1920, the Rev. Mr. Denny Bright relieved Mr. Powell at long last; assisting him were Mr. Brockwell, Terry Cronyn and S. Kingsmill. In 1921 C. T. Pearson replaced Cronyn.

The outstanding piece of battlefield reporting to appear in *Acta* throughout the entire war period was published in the spring of 1919; it was a letter from No. 3 London General Hospital written by Lt.-Col. Douglas Mason, D.S.O., O.B.E., to Major Snively, President of the Old Boys' Association. He told of the experiences of the 3rd Battalion throughout the glorious Last Hundred Days, first at Amiens and then against the Drocourt-Quéant Line and almost up to the Canal du Nord, where Doggie was wounded once more while in command of his regiment. His account was a splendid finale to

Acta's long years of casualty lists, war news and soldiers' letters from the front.

IT WAS ON Sunday, June 22, 1919, that Ridley held its Memorial Service for the Old Ridleians who had given their lives in the Great War. It was a beautiful and very moving service which was to be long remembered, largely because of Dr. Miller's eloquent sermon. Cadets Stringer and Osborne read the lessons before Dr. Miller spoke.

Old Ridleians had mustered in great numbers. There was subdued sternness on their faces to reflect the depth of their feelings, the flashes of vivid and tragic battle scenes which were being conjured and all that this service meant to them.

Dr. Miller revealed in his sermon that even in 1919 he already understood that the spirit of comradeship and self-sacrifice had been such shining attributes of service in the recent bloody and bitter war of attrition that they transcended all else, rising even over the suffering itself, especially for the private soldier of infantry who suffered most. There were chaplains who had witnessed and felt this phenomenon – "the spirit of the front-line" – but few other clergymen or laymen were ever able to speak of it with such discernment as Dr. Miller now did. It was clear that he had felt the loss of each Old Ridleian in the war so deeply that it enabled him to speak as if he had been with them and as if he had himself witnessed their sacrifices and had personally felt the unselfish comradeship of 1914-18 that was to exalt all who survived so long as they lived. They would keep earnestly searching for it amid the selfishness of civilian pursuits, even when scorned as sentimentalists by the realists. But those who were destined to live long were never again to find it in such full measure, in either war or peace, as they had known it during the Kaiser's War.

As Dr. Miller's notable *In Memoriam* address in 1919 revealed his great understanding of this, he also disclosed his deep, sad pride that so many of his old pupils had so gallantly and resolutely honoured the spirit and motto of Ridley: *May I be consumed in service.*

The following extracts will only do partial justice to Dr. Miller's eloquent theme which was a moving appeal that the spirit of the fallen which had been bequeathed by Ridley's soldier dead should be marshalled as a great spiritual force against selfishness, militarism and evil:

"As we sit here quietly in God's house," said Dr. Miller, "we desire to recall our glorious dead vividly, and to enter into communion with them. Today, we want to look at these sixty heroic souls in the mass, as a company, just as we might look upon our Cadet Corps, to which they once belonged, drawn up for inspection. If you can imagine them standing

before us in serried ranks, eager to spring to action at the commander's voice, animated by a single living force, unterrified, confident, resolute to achieve, you will begin to understand the power of their unified spirit, and the tremendous spiritual energy that they have bequeathed to us, and to this beloved land in which we dwell.

"Are we worthy of this bequest?"

"Are we capable of putting it to its intended use?"

"For you and for me, as we are met here today, to renew our memory of the achievements, the self-denial, the self-renunciation and sacrifice of our little company of sixty, for the most part in their first blush of manhood, we realize there has been created and released for our help and use a corporate, God-like spirit that has the power in our struggle against sin to make our strength as the strength of ten.

"Take the single instance of the spirit of unselfishness that they have bequeathed for our appropriation. It was no part of their obedience as soldiers. It was not laid down in the soldier's hand-book. It was never promulgated in general orders. It was never urged by any captain or platoon-commander, and yet this Christ-like quality of unselfishness was universal throughout our armies. It pervaded all ranks and all grades of the service. Many a cross on the battlefield marks the deliberate sacrifice of a life that some other might be saved.

"The symbols of the corporate spirit that our beloved dead have left us are the poppy-lighted crosses of France and Flanders. The men who fought and bled and died there have redeemed us with a price that we cannot yet begin to estimate. We shall never be able to reckon its full total. In all the world's history there has been no redemption from evil without suffering and sacrifice, and the shedding of innocent blood, and this redemption only typifies for us the great world redemption won for us by the Cross of Christ.

"... Can we not feel that spirit brooding over us? Can we not feel it filling our hearts? Can we not realize it as a holy inspiration? If we can then the spirit of our dead is a sword placed in our hands.

"And now look once more at those sixty heroic souls, drawn up so that we may see each one and recognize his features. . . . Think of his qualities – the honest face, the fearless eyes, the brave and loving heart, the open hand, the attitude of willing service. Can we think of these things without making a solemn vow of consecration to follow in their footsteps? Can we hesitate to consecrate ourselves, our souls and bodies, as they did, to the service of our fellow-men?"

There was only one hymn which could conclude such an address, John Arkwright's *O, Valiant Hearts*. The bell-like voices of the boys of Ridley sang it with emotion and pride:

*O valiant hearts, who to your glory came,
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.*

*Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to war,
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had you gave
To save mankind – yourselves you scorned to save.*

*. . . These were His servants, in His steps they trod
Following through death the martyr'd Son of God:
Victor he rose; victorious too shall rise
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.*

*O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,
Whose Cross has brought them and whose Staff has led –
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land
Commits her children to thy gracious hand.*

Fittingly, too, then came the long, mourning but golden echoes of *The Last Post*, bugled by Cadet Williams.

After the service there were oral reports of the progress of plans for the Memorial Chapel which would represent all that had just been felt. It was going to be an inspired addition to physical Ridley, with a tremendous psychological effect for all the years ahead. The Memorial Chapel would be the finest physical gift the Old Boys' Association would probably ever make to Ridley. Their fund-raising programme had never relaxed throughout 1918. By 1920 they were probably the most urgent clients the architects and builders had; once construction was started, they kept pressing for speed. They were able to hold a cornerstone ceremony well before the additions to the Upper School and the new dormitory building, called Gooderham House, which were also soon well forward, had reached the same stage.

On June 4, 1921, Hon. Lt.-Col. the Reverend Canon Frederick George Scott, who had been senior chaplain of the 1st Canadian Division and the best-known of all Canadian war-padres, laid the cornerstone of the Memorial Chapel, with Ridley's cadets forming the Guard of Honour. President W. E. Caldecott of the Old Boys' Association presided, assisted by the Rev. A. H. Howitt and other Anglican clergymen.

As this moving ceremony was held in quiet St. Catharines, the country was tasting – and disliking – its first dose of undiluted Marxist-type revolution, disguised as militant socialism. In May, the workers of the Winnipeg metal trades – 2,000 of them – had walked out on strike, and fifty-two other unions followed, paralysing Canada's third largest city. It was well into June before Ottawa realized it had a seditious conspiracy on its hands. As Ridley was holding her memorial service, the country was still appalled by the riot behind Winnipeg's City Hall when fifty R.C.M.P. constables and five hundred special officers clashed with the strikers. There was one killed, one fatally

wounded, thirty-one were in hospital and ninety-one were in jail, with the strike-leaders rushed into Stoney Mountain Penitentiary. They included the Rev. J. S. Woodsworth, A. A. Heaps, and Russell, a metal trades official, boasting of his Marxism as he was sentenced to two years.

A Russian-type strike proved too strong for Canadian labour, which turned to a gentler socialism. To the boys of Ridley it had only been a passing, if exciting and disturbing episode, but they noted a new name on the Canadian scene: Tim Buck, Canadian Communist leader, who had already been to Moscow for training. They may have later realized that Canada was now on a political trend which would see four preachers or ex-preachers becoming prominent in public life: Woodsworth, Aberhart, Douglas and Manning, and in time they knew that the Winnipeg strike had been the signal that life in Canada would not return to its old peaceful pattern of the pre-war years. Such an explosive episode would have been impossible amid the placidity of the Good Years, which were gone, to stay. The tempo of Canadian life would now quicken, with habits and viewpoints under the stress of drastic change, with the oldsters regretting the passing of the old orderliness. Life at Ridley would be altered, too, but the remarkable factor would be the steadfastness of her principles and ideals.

MEMORABLE ATHLETIC YEARS

THE new rink had only been started in October, 1918, but the roof was on to permit flooding after Christmas; otherwise the hockey players would have been without ice throughout the mild winter of 1919. Because of the protection of the roof there was continuous skating and the hockey team responded with a season of all victories and no defeats. Most notable of all, Upper Canada College at last accepted a Ridley challenge to a hockey match. They sent a team to play Ridley on Saturday, March 1, for the first time in 23 years. It was thus the first inter-school hockey game which Ridley had played since 1896. They had yet to play either T.C.S. or St. Andrew's.

In Ridley's frequently recurring desire to establish hockey in the permanent status of a regular inter-school game, it is said that some oldsters were tempted to hint to hockey captain Moore to "go easy on U.C.C.". The big Toronto college might feel encouraged if they were not defeated too badly, at least not to the extent of humiliation. The temptation was resisted; the game was fast and cleanly contested, and if Ridley won 8-3, with Sandy Somerville and Moore each scoring twice for Ridley, Upper Canada was certainly not humiliated. It didn't help; there was not another U.C.C. game until 1923.

Because Ridley had a record of 10 wins and no losses in 1919, the team

should be recorded, and because this game against U.C.C. was such a rare event that it was historic, the U.C.C. team should also be named:

Upper Canada: Mitchell, goal; Beatty, Braithwaite, defence; Richards (capt.) centre; Swabey, left wing; Kirk, right wing; Gill, Gilmore, subs.

Ridley: Glass (3rd year), goal; Woodruff (2nd year) and Norsworthy (2nd year), defence; Somerville (1st year), centre; O'Brian (1st year), left wing; Moore (capt., 2nd year), right wing; Saunders and Johnston (1st year), subs.

In the years 1920 and 1921 the School hockey team continued to dominate their competition in the Niagara Peninsula, including Hamilton Collegiate. In 1920 they won 8 and lost 4 and in 1921 the first team lost only 1 game (to Port Colborne) while winning 8 again. Glass, the veteran Ridley goal-keeper, became captain in 1920. He was succeeded by Sandy Somerville in 1921 who starred at centre in both years. He had developed a wicked shot.

All winter long the gymnasium provided fine body-building exercise for the apparatus men, the boxers and fencers, though both the latter sports needed improved instruction. Colours were now awarded for members of the gym team which greatly increased both the earnestness of the volunteers and their numbers on the bars, rings and tumbling mats. On April 4, 1919, no less than 160 boys of both schools took part in a display which attracted many St. Catharines and out of town visitors.

Unhappily, this wonderful, well-drilled mass demonstration by the boys of Ridley was never repeated. They lost Sergt. Gellateley who returned to England in 1920 to live there. There was no exhibition that year and also missing from the Ridley calendar was the annual contest for the Witton Cup. The bottom fell out of their gym work. However, Capt. Iggulden, the new Cadet instructor, who was assisting Col. Thairs, drilled them for six weeks in 1921 and then staged both the usual gymnastic contest and Ridley's own form of an Assault-at-Arms in close succession in March. The Witton Cup, first donated in 1915 for the champion of Ridley's gymnasts, had now been won by

1915	V. R. Irvine	1919	J. R. Sutherland
1916	H. R. Barr	1920	(no contest)
1917	H. R. Barr	1921	D. L. McWhinney
1918	M. B. Hamilton		

Either winning the cricket championship of the Little Big Four had now become a humdrum thing for Ridley or *Acta's* cricket reporter was more modest than the most shrinking of springtime violets, for the fact that Ridley completely dominated her rival schools in two of the three years, 1919-21, failed to be reflected in excited or laudatory seasonal reviews. The School in inter-school cricket was beaten only once (by 5 runs) in the three years but

such cricket prowess by Ridley's First XI was now apparently taken for granted.

In these three years, also, Ridley's cricket field saw the most consistently spectacular batsman in action whom the School had yet produced: Sandy Somerville. The cricket reporter was also studiously unexcited about his feats. With almost incongruous understatement *Acta's* reporter just said that Somerville won the batting championship in 1920 and 1921 when he was also captain. In the latter year it was admitted almost as an afterthought that he was "perhaps the best-all-round player the School has ever produced".

We suppose this restraint was reflecting the quite commendable school policy which frowned on individual glorification of a boy, but the cricket reporter was avoiding this a bit too literally in the case of the unassuming Sandy Somerville. It was not accurate reporting to say that the game produced "some interesting cricket" – and little else – in which Sandy all but gained immortality in Canadian cricket. He had scored 212 not out in that game, the highest ever made in school cricket and only surpassed by one man (Lyon) in Canadian cricket. Perhaps there is an explanation here for the comment by Old Boys that Sandy's cricket career at Ridley has been only properly assessed in retrospect.

Sandy Somerville's name first flashed across Canadian cricket skies in 1919, when the championship returned to Ridley once more. They had missed only once (1918) in six years, since 1913. He was not only Ridley's best bowler, with a 6.7 average, but he gave notice of great batting feats to come by hitting for six in two school games.

That year the First XI not only won a great majority of its matches with various cricket clubs as well as all of its school matches, but the second, third and Dean's House teams were doing almost as well. There was cricket strength all through Ridley. The entire school was playing cricket, with form teams playing a schedule and with outside matches even for the youngsters in the Lower School. It was a progressive, cumulative thing; two years later there would be even more cricket strength everywhere.

MacMahon was cricket captain of the School XI in 1919. Ridley defeated *Albions*; lost to Mr. Dean's Old Country eleven on May 24; lost to the Yorkshire Cricket Club; won from *St. George's* of Hamilton; won from Haverford College; and then defeated their three rival schools, St. Andrew's, U.C.C. and T.C.S., in that order, to win the cricket championship. Five new colours were on the 1919 team.

In 1920, with Sandy Somerville now captain, Ridley's great feat was to play and win four matches on a single day, all their teams being in top form. That was probably more significant of their cricket strength than a championship. They had done it once before, but that was years ago. The First XI began the season by defeating the Old Boys; then they lost to the Toronto

Cricket Club, won from a St. Catharines eleven; lost to Rosedale Cricket Club; won from Mr. Dean's team on the Queen's Birthday; and then seemed about to finish the season with a sweep of their school games as they had in 1919. But it was not to be. They lost to T.C.S. by 5 runs, and won a tie championship.

They had virtually swamped Upper Canada and St. Andrew's, and then encountered the XI of Trinity College School which had a team reminiscent of the days when T.C.S. was the inspiration for preparatory school cricket. The clash provided a game which is still talked about, probably by both schools but certainly by Old Ridleians. The game worked up to its dramatic finish in this way: T.C.S. batted first and made 108. Then Ridley followed with 103, and they went into their second innings with T.C.S. leading by that slim margin of 5. But the enemy of Ridley and the ally of T.C.S. was the umpire's watch. Time was running out.

In the T.C.S. second innings Ridley's bowlers rose to their greatest heights in years, and their fielders put up an almost unbeatable defensive wall. They put out the redoubtable T.C.S. side for a mere 18 runs!

Ten minutes to play! Ridley needed 24 runs to win!

The T.C.S. eleven, in a spirit of traditional fair play, hurried into their positions to let Ridley have every chance. Ridley's batsmen rushed in without bothering about pads or gloves. But at the end of the ten minutes Ridley had made only 16 runs for 2 wickets – losing by 5 runs on the first innings' score through the relentless ticking of the clock.

Cheeriest of all despite the loss was Sandy Somerville whose shrug of good sportsmanship was the signal for his team's warm congratulations to T.C.S. No one was disgraced, certainly not the team's captain on his seasonal record. In the Upper Canada game he had taken 7 wickets for 19 runs and against St. Andrew's his bowling was marked by a 6 for 16. In batting Somerville was still short of his peak, but his 60 against St. Catharines C.C. and his consistent scores in double figures gave further hint of the most spectacular individual batting season which a Ridley XI had yet known, and which was now to come.

It was in 1921, during Somerville's second year as captain, that the future Canadian golf great found his full batting skill and strength. His bat began to lash the ball to all corners of every and any cricket field the team visited. He finished the season with a spectacular batting average of 55.2 with Cliff next best with 19.5. He had the best bowling average besides, a fine 4.04. In a year which saw Ridley gain a clean sweep over all rivals, Somerville scored 62 runs against Toronto Cricket Club, 52 against Mr. Dean's team which came over from Toronto as usual for the Queen's Birthday match with Ridley, and then he turned his school world into delirious excitement by smashing out not one, but two centuries.

These were only the third and fourth centuries scored by a Ridley cricketer since 1889.

The first Somerville century was a wonderful 104 not out against Upper Canada, as Ridley overwhelmed their old rivals 204-38. They next defeated St. Andrew's 118-91 and then T.C.S. by an innings and 27 runs, to make sure of the 1921 Little Big Four Cricket Championship. The uproar at Ridley after the last match was reminiscent of some of the School's wildest victory celebrations of the distant day when a smaller school would go mildly insane. In more mature 1921 they were just delirious, with one of Somerville's batting feats in particular told and retold. This was his fantastic score of 212 not out against Hamilton Cricket Club – a double century!

Somerville had made his first century (104) against Upper Canada on June 1; his second, the double century, an unheard-of feat, had come on June 8. It gave lasting fame to Somerville, and to this day it is regretted that it did not give him Canadian cricket immortality as holder of the top score of all time.

His 212 not out was the highest score ever made in school cricket in Canada, and only the clock probably prevented him from making the highest score of all classes of Canadian cricket. As it was, Somerville batted that afternoon at this peak for two and a half hours, after his team had dismissed their opponents for 52 runs. Ridley's innings then had to be closed, with only 5 out, while Somerville still stood at the wicket. His scoring was thus stopped while he was still second to the top Canadian score by Mr. G. S. Lyon of 237 not out.

Even so, Somerville's was not only the mightiest batting feat of Ridley's great years as champions, but also in the cricket of the four preparatory schools from Ridley's birth in 1889 to her seventieth birthday in 1959.

Ridley's post-season cricket tours still continued through the unfailing interest and generosity of Mr. Geo. H. Gooderham, Ridley's President. He had sent the Ridley cricket eleven on an annual tour each summer in the pre-war years, and even during some of the wartime summers. The trip was revived in 1920, with the XI leaving on June 28, just after Prize Day. They played in Ottawa on the next two days and then went to Montreal to defeat Westmount and McGill in turn. A boat trip to Quebec was a special treat, with no cricket. In 1921 they went to Philadelphia, heart of American cricket, and won 2 and lost 2 of the 4 matches staged.

In 1919 the high morale of the whole school was pulsing strongly in the football fever of the fall, for this was another of those rare double-victory years – championships in both cricket and football. Cricket did not have a victory song; cricketers do not roar exultant triumph at a beaten foe, as footballers may and do, but this year they were actually singing of victory in the spring, and they also sang, *We're Champions Again* – over and over – at the end of that glorious first postwar football season. It was sung by Riddleians of all ages everywhere that autumn but probably the younger they were the later they sang into the night. The boys in the Lower School were always a great trial on "victory" night to the duty-master.

Acta's football reporter was reticent, but he forecast another victorious season in 1919, if a bit cautiously: "We have had many good football teams at Ridley, and it is always dangerous to attempt to compare the present with the past, but we feel safe in saying that the team this year is going to compare favourably with any of its predecessors."

It did. Ridley first defeated St. Andrew's on the School campus, with two U.C.C. Old Boys, Major Bob Cory and Hal DeGruchy, coming to St. Catharines to handle the game. Ridley won narrowly, 13-11. They next won their second game in the Little Big Four series by defeating Upper Canada 44-15, and they then whitewashed T.C.S. 10-0, in what was considered one of the best rugby games seen in Toronto in years despite the failure of T.C.S. to score.

"Praise must be given to Sandy Somerville for his consistent punting and faultless catching," said the reporter, but Mr. Griffith's familiar coaching advice, "Make your tackles hard, low, clean and often" had been followed faithfully and had a lot to do with Ridley's 1919 success.

If the T.C.S. game was a fine display of skilful football, Ridley's struggle against Upper Canada had been one of the most exciting clashes these old football rivals ever staged, and only the word spectacular fits Ridley's play in the final quarter. The game had progressed normally to three-quarter time. In the first quarter U.C.C. was on the offensive throughout and led 7-0 at the end. In the next quarter Ridley more than reversed things, and at the half the score was 13-7, but it was still either side's game. The final quarter began, with the score very close; it was 15-14 in favour of Ridley. And then Ridley staged such a furious and sustained attack that "the roof seemed to collapse on Upper Canada". Ridley scored four touch-downs in nearly the same number of minutes and Barr converted all four. This was before the day of the delaying huddle and such speed of play was quite possible.

The excitement among the Old Ridleians as their boys changed a score of 15-14 to one of 44-15 in the last part of the final quarter is still remembered. C. A. Hyde, Sandy Somerville, A. W. Rogers and football captain C. J. Barr were the outstanding heroes of that great attack, though the entire team seemed to reach a peak at the same time. They looked like the champions they were.

The rivalry between Ridley's second and third teams had always been intense, and in 1919 the War of the Scrubs involved a memorable upset. The third team humiliated the seconds almost beyond bearing; they played them twice – *and beat them twice!*

There were seven old colours on Ridley's championship team of 1919, captained by C. J. Barr, right outside, the only fourth-year colour. The other old colours were: C. A. Hyde, left half, third year; A. R. Glass, left outside, third year; A. A. Bertram, right outside, second year; G. W. Hyslop, right

middle, second year; N. M. Gilchrist, flying wing, second year; S. B. Hamilton, left outside, second year. The first-year men were Sandy (C. R.) Somerville, centre half; A. W. Rogers, right half; E. C. Johnston, quarter; R. A. Gordon, left inside; J. R. Sutherland, right scrimmage; A. R. Williams, centre scrimmage; W. H. Breithaupt, left middle; C. D. Scott, left scrimmage; S. A. Snyder, left scrimmage.

In 1920 Ridley had no championship to celebrate, but there was great satisfaction in the remarkable number of boys who were out with the faithful Scrubs and the other Ridley teams. The unusual feature of the School team was that all the old colour men had gone but three (Somerville, Hyslop and Breithaupt) and, like Micky Irvine in 1914, Sandy Somerville was captain in what was only his second year. Their season was actually wonderful; they scored 74 points with only 28 against them, but a dismaying loss to U.C.C., 11-7, made them runners-up for the championship. They had earlier won from T.C.S. 32-1, tied St. Andrew's 6-6 and defeated a team from U.T.S. 29-10.

In 1921 Ridley's loss to St. Andrew's 15-6 gave the Toronto school the championship. With C. L. Mackenzie captain of a Ridley team which had only two old colour men to start the season, they defeated U.C.C. 18-10 and T.C.S. 23-4 but St. Andrew's had again fielded a team reminiscent of some of their great teams of the pre-war years. They had the orange-and-black team badly disorganized in the first half when the score was 12-0, and though a great fight was staged by Ridley in the third period the lead was too much to overcome.

THE School's schedule of activities was so crowded during the war it is remarkable that so much was carried out with an understrength staff to provide leadership; the tempo continued in the postwar years, and all the masters were still busy with extracurricular work. The stamp and camera clubs had remained active, and in 1920 the science club was founded which was more serious of purpose than its adopted dubbing suggested: *The Ace of Clubs*. Many excellent papers were offered, and the venture was popular and informative from the outset. At one of the early meetings of the science club, Ed Arnott produced a hand-made short-wave receiving set to illustrate his paper: *Wireless*. His audience listened to stations along the Atlantic Coast. (*Postscript*. In 1959 Old Boy Ed Arnott was appointed Director of Research for Westinghouse in the United States, one of the top posts of industrial science.)

When it was announced that parents and friends of Ridley would be welcomed once more to view the School's field sports, the athletes were already in serious training, but it was noticed that interest had faded since the pre-war years when the track-and-field events had reached tremendous

popularity, not only at Ridley but throughout Canada. The intervention of the war had apparently caused interest in road-racing to diminish; other sport spectacles had captured the public imagination. The track-and-field sports would probably never again have the importance at Ridley which they had known before 1914.

Yet, during the three years 1919 to 1921 inclusive great crowds of parents, Old Boys and other spectators were attracted to Ridley's beautiful green lawns and playing fields, and the track-and-field champions were very important school personalities.

SCHOOL CHAMPIONS: TRACK-AND-FIELD

	<i>Senior Champion</i>	<i>Intermediate Champion</i>	<i>Junior Champion</i>	<i>Lower School Champion</i>
1919	W. A. Woodruff	D. L. McWhinney	E. L. Shurly	H. C. Fairbank
1920	N. M. Gilchrist	E. L. Shurly	H. C. Fairbank	J. A. Millidge
1921	D. L. McWhinney	S. K. Bongard	I. R. Hislop	J. B. Neeve

WITH everything else at Ridley – almost all after-class activities and phases – the Cadet Corps had reached a new peak of efficiency and maturity in the last year of the war and the first in peace. The annual compliments of the inspecting officers had continued with all sincerity since the pre-war years when Ridley's Corps was repeatedly characterized officially as the finest in Ontario. This was echoed by the official reports of 1917, 1918 and 1919, and in 1920 this frank statement was made after the inspection by Lt.-Col. F. C. McCordick, the inspecting officer: "If there is a finer company of cadets in Canada I should like to see it."

The parade state in 1920 gave a total of 110 cadets, each of them imbued with the pride of Ridley's tradition in war and lifted by their own wonderful *esprit de corps*. The officers were Cadet Captain C. J. Barr and Cadet Lieutenants C. R. Somerville and Stuart Snyder.

It should be recalled that in 1918 the cadets had acquitted themselves so well that veteran militia officers, who were not Ridleians, declared they displayed the parade-square smartness and precision of movement of an army unit after long training. Ridley's Cadet Corps was never more alert and soldierly than when they had formed guards of honour in 1918 for visits to St. Catharines by H.R.H. the Duke of Devonshire and (in 1919) by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales. Ridley's cadets were frankly thrilled when they were inspected by the Prince at St. Catharines' station. He was the world's Prince Charming, and to Ridley's cadets he was the epitome of the motto of each Prince of Wales – *Ich Dien* (I serve) – for his impatient eagerness to serve in action was still fresh in their minds. (*Postscript*: The admiration for the Prince was so intense that his abdication as Edward VIII



J. W. ALEXANDER
('05-'16)
R.C.A. (Killed, 1918)



A. N. SCLATER
('00-'06)
13th Bn. (Killed, 1918)

Death in the Last Year . . .



E. F. THAIRS
('04-'12)
3rd Bn. (Killed, 1918)

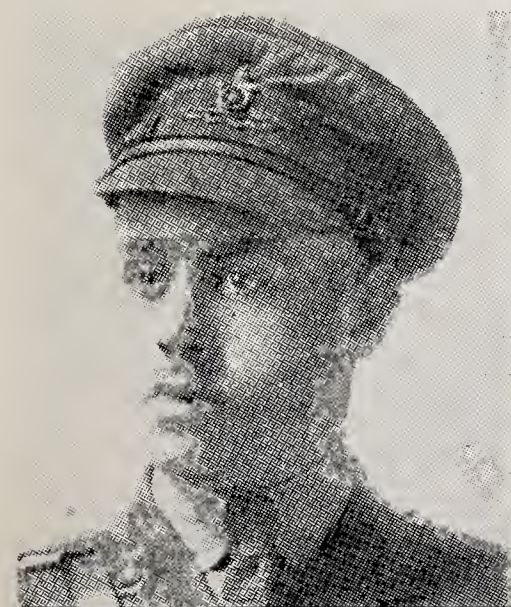


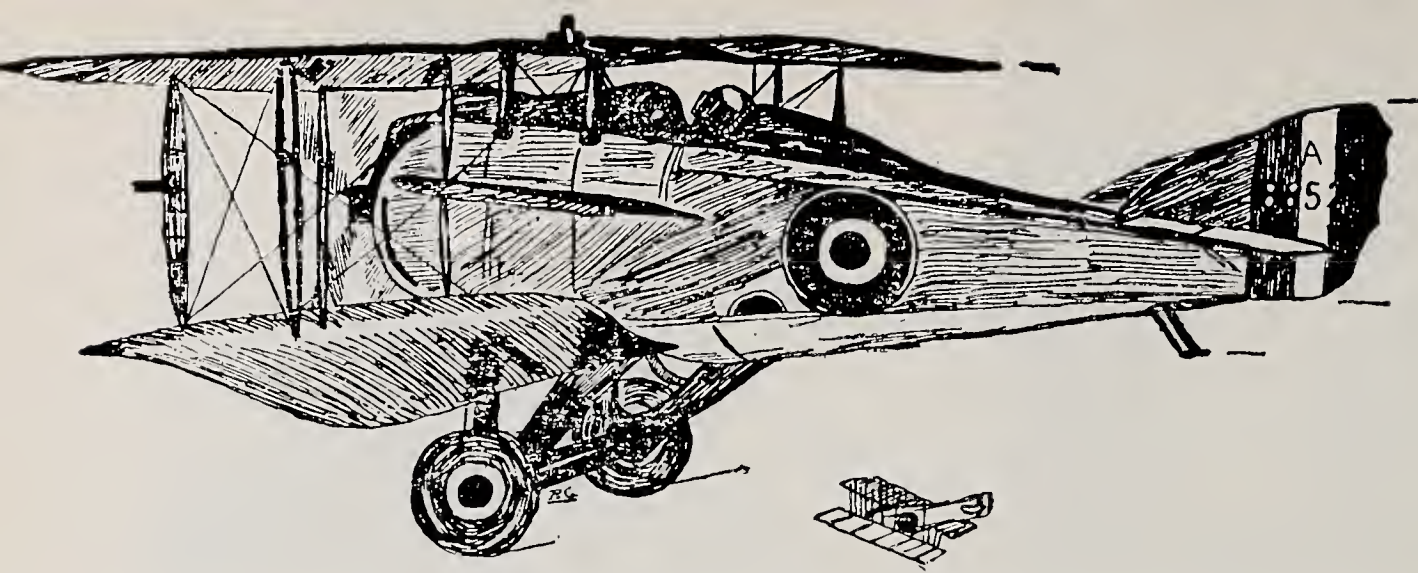
E. F. CROSSLAND
('11-'12)
R.A.F. (Killed, 1918)

J. L. SCATCHERD
('07-'13)
R C.A. (Killed, 1918)

S. DE V. WOODRUFF
('02-'12)
16th Bn. (Killed, 1918)

V. R. V. T. S. IRVINE
('07-'15)
R.A.F. (Killed, 1918)





A British Airman; by an *Acta* artist

War
Cartoons
by
Ridleians

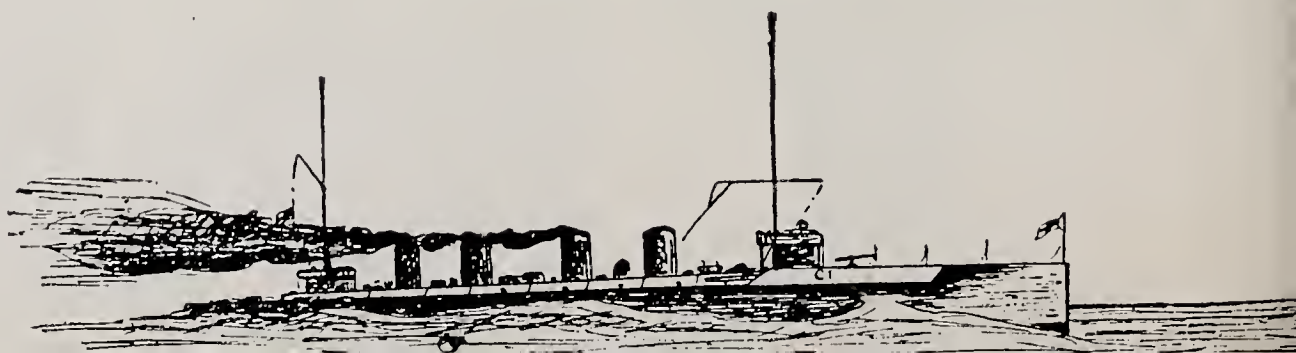


"The 5th Division—Sidelined!"
by Geoffrey Marani



"All dressed-up and no place
to go" — by Wilf Heighington

A Sub-Chaser; by an *Acta* illustrator





It became the Assembly Hall in 1923.

*The Old
Chapel
in
School
House*

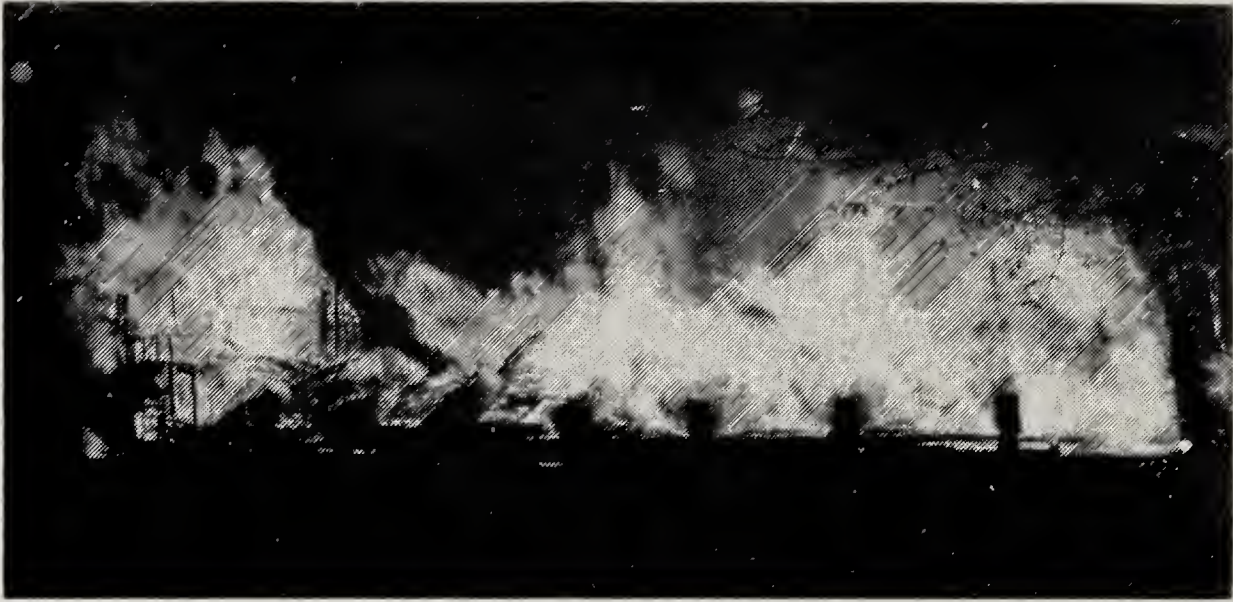


Concentration.

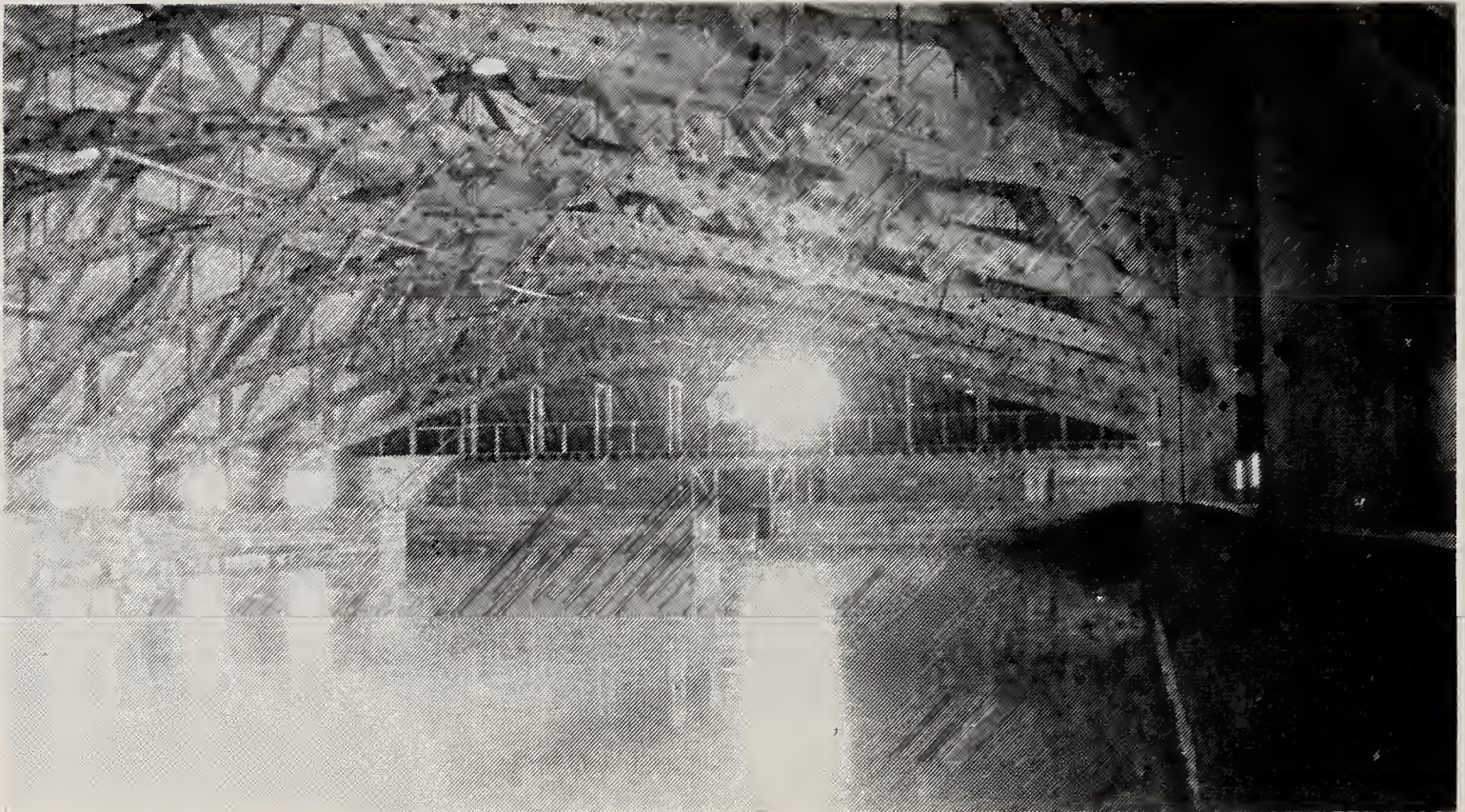
The Old Honour Boards at the back



Ridley's Hockey Rinks



NICHOLLS' HALL
The rink—in flames in the night.



THE NEW RINK WAS RUSHED
First flooding, December, 1918.



THE OUTDOOR RINK
Always in action . . .
when there was ice.

came as a shock to Ridley and its Cadet Corps of that future time; they remembered that Ridley's own war dead had not hesitated to leave their loved ones to serve their country.)

In 1919, it seemed fitting that the Cadet Corps' history should be recorded in capsule form in *Acta*. Unfortunately, A. R. Glass, the student-historian, overlooked paying his most warm compliments of all to Col. Thairs and all the boys of Ridley who had drilled three times a week without uniforms or official recognition from 1889, the year Ridley was born, until 1907. They were earnest drill squads, and many an officer of the Canadian Army of both the South African War and the Kaiser's War learned the rudiments of soldiering in them. They carried on for so long without the inspiration of an inspection day – without even a bugle or a drum for many years – that they must not fade into the past unhonoured and unsung by Ridley.

During the war, it had been the small boys of the Lower School – the Cadet “reserve” – who had been drilling without uniforms, but in 1921 they, too, came into their own. The bursting pride of the drill-squads of the Lower School was so great it could not be mistaken in the straight young backs and high-held heads. Quite plainly the smallest, shortest boys were “marching at the strut” on the day they were officially listed as the Junior Cadet Corps.

Their uniforms were only “blue coats – white ducks”, but they were now an independent military formation of their own, with their own status and officers. It was recognition, the important thing.

The official christening by Ottawa of the Junior Cadet Corps was the result of a surprise move; it followed a decree by Dr. Miller in 1919 that drill would be compulsory in the Lower School. Mr. Williams had considered the plan very seriously before recommending it. The morale of the Lower School at once leaped to a new peak, and it was always high, to prove the move was wise.

There was confirmation of that wisdom on inspection day in 1921. Lt.-Col. Barker, the inspecting officer, was warmly congratulatory and, to prove his sincerity, he privately reminded Mr. Williams and beaming white-moustached Col. Thairs that he had many public school cadets for comparison. Col. Thairs had spent almost the entire term on them. They were drilled to perfection, and their small-boy pride was an inspiring thing to see. The following was their programme:

First, fourteen-year-old Junior Cadet Lieutenant McCormack put them through fifteen minutes of company drill, with just one nervous break in his clear voice at the start, and then even younger Cadet Lieutenant Shell gave them fifteen minutes of Swedish drill, with a fine word of command answered by splendid rhythm. It was a difficult thing to do for such young officers in front of a group of fifty dignitaries, including experienced regular army officers with penetrating eyes and a lot of service ribbons and gold braid.

The Junior Cadet Corps indicated that Ridley would now inculcate the responsibilities and qualities of leadership at an even younger age than before.

The spirit of the whole Cadet Corps was so high that they had an after-thought in the spring of 1920; after deciding against a revival of the annual Cadet Corps Dance, it was held after all, but in May instead of in the winter "social" season. The decorations were beautiful, with the swimming pool once more drained, decorated and arranged as a cosy sitting-out place between dances. More guests came than had been expected to testify that the important social institution, which the Cadet Corps Dance had become before the war in the life of the School, had lost none of its attractiveness. The only feature missing was President Gooderham's private railway car, leased for the occasion, and used as sleeping quarters and a dressing room for the President's guests. Postwar shortage of railway rolling stock had eliminated it.

THE long-delayed renovations and additions to the somewhat worn and battered school after four years of war with very little done did not get beyond the conversational stage in 1919, but the Board was given the pointed report which Dr. Miller and his two vice-principals had prepared. They did not mince words on the overcrowding and deteriorated physical condition of the School. Their report was ready before school closed in June, 1919, but it was not given serious consideration by the Board until October 30, the date Dr. Miller formally presented it. (Please see Appendix A-a for the contents of the report.)

On Col. Leonard's insistence, the Board now placed itself on record as believing that a school of 250 boarding boys (150 in the Upper School and 100 in the Lower School) was the growth-target for Ridley. The truth was, a school of this size had been agreed upon during wartime discussions; most actions by the Board in 1919 were confirming earlier proposals. On January 22 Bylaw XXX was passed, authorizing the Board to issue debentures to the extent of \$200,000 to cover the cost of the rink, already built, improvements to the Lower School, largely completed, and to extend and improve the Upper School's buildings generally. Both School House and the Dean's House were given a lot of internal attention.

Ridley in 1919 was actually looking forward to an historic building phase, none of it included in the above considerations. It was opened by a notable act of great generosity by President George H. Gooderham and his brother, Ross. They had decided to present an entirely new Upper School "house" to Ridley.

The account of how such a memorable gift to Ridley developed is prosaic when told by the formal, semi-legal terminology of the Board's minutes, but to the Headmaster and his staff it was dramatic. It grew out of a meeting of the St. Catharines Committee held on February 21, 1920, which was not

intended to be unusual, but President George H. Gooderham unexpectedly launched a serious discussion on a new dormitory building. He offered to give \$25,000 toward its erection. The challenge was taken up by Col. R. W. Leonard who offered to match this sum but with the provision that \$100,000 must be raised by May 1. The next phase of the story was opened by a visit to Mr. Ross Gooderham by H. C. Griffith in early April; he was about to launch an intense fund-raising campaign to meet the May 1 deadline. *He came away with a gift of \$125,000 in school bonds!*

Perhaps there was rivalry between the two Gooderhams. In any event, when this generous act by his brother Ross was reported to President George H. Gooderham (as it was at once, of course), he was not to be outdone; he exclaimed: "The Gooderham brothers will build your dormitory for you."

Perhaps the birth-date for Gooderham House should be February 21, 1920 when the challenge was thrown by Mr. Gooderham and Col. Leonard. In any event, during April things moved almost as quickly as plans were progressing for the Old Boys' Memorial Chapel. Col. Leonard stated that his \$25,000 should be devoted to the start of a new fund to build a new Lower School; Sproatt and Rolph were instructed (May 1) to prepare plans for the new Gooderham building; and Mr. A. W. Taylor, Professor George Wrong and the President were appointed to work with the architects.

Other generous acts were recorded to help forward the expansion of Ridley and to give everyone confidence by mid-1920 that financing and all other problems were already resolved, or soon would be. Some of those who surrendered school bonds as gifts were Mr. and Mrs. Carl Riordon of Montreal; Col. (Dr.) W. H. Merritt, Vice-President Ingersoll, Mr. A. W. Taylor, Mr. Courtney Kingstone and Mr. Alfred Rogers.

In mid-1920 a new scale of fees was also set after consultation with the headmasters of Upper Canada, St. Andrew's and Trinity College School. A boarding boy's fee was raised to \$650 per annum for both schools, but in March, 1921 this was raised again to \$700, a rate for boarders in both schools which continued until 1926. In June 1920 the student roll totalled 135 boarders and two day-boys in the Upper School, with sixty boarders and seven day-boys in the Lower School. In October the total number of students reached 204, an all-time high for Ridley to date, to confirm the need for the expansion plan.

There were internal administration difficulties to do with the new post of business manager in 1920 and 1921, which resulted in a second appointment for Mr. Mel (G. M.) Brock, who had been on the Lower School staff before the war and had returned to Ridley and the Upper School. He was appointed assistant secretary and general purchasing agent in addition to his Upper School literature classes and coaching activities. This heralded the second phase of the career of another Ridley master who became something of a

legend. Mel was laughed at and with, and loved, and stories about him are legion – his race with Bill Lennox; his scrubs, the second football, basketball and hockey teams (“Mel expects every man to do his duty”); his purchase (so the story goes) of the last batch of wicket-keepers’ gloves in Canada – *all left-handed!*; his variety of bizarre motor cars long before the hot-rod fad; and his accidents and incidents with them. With all this he filled a gap, was of immense aid in the School’s daily business affairs and added something worthwhile to the flavour of the School.

The prosperity and secure position of the School in 1920 was unquestionable, and its future promise was never so bright. The year is a distinct date-post in the development of Ridley. No one marked this more closely than the Headmaster who felt that his long task of firmly establishing Ridley was done.

THE RESIGNATION OF DR. MILLER

PRIZE Day marked the end of the school year as usual in 1919, but the break-up of the school for the summer holidays was the first since 1915 when the graduating seniors did not feel they might be saying a long goodbye – perhaps the last – to all their old school friends. Prize Day was held only two days after the unforgettable Memorial Service for Ridley’s war-dead, and the subdued pride which had marked the service still enveloped both boys and masters. This first Prize Day of the peace differed in another way from those of the war years; once more there were distinguished speakers and such a large audience of parents and friends that the seating capacity of the gymnasium was taxed to the limit and beyond; some listened from the ante-rooms as the prize-winners were called forward after His Lordship the Bishop of Niagara and then Archdeacon Renison had addressed the assembly.

Dr. Miller’s talk was to the parents; he spoke of the growth of the School and the intimate co-ordination of school and home life which is necessary for the ideal education of a boy. Mr. Ab Taylor said to the Headmaster later: “It’s good to hear you speak on Prize Day again; it’s good to have peace again.” He would have been disturbed if he had realized this was the last time Dr. Miller would address a Prize Day audience of parents and students as Headmaster of Ridley.

The consensus of opinion was that the school year of 1918-19, now ending, represented the most successful year in Ridley’s history and that the School was prospering as never before. This would be confirmed in 1920, but even now this was true in attendance, morale and high average marks in all the forms. And it was in spite of a serious shortage in academic staff. The time lost from the influenza epidemic had been made up in 1919, and there had been

intense interest in all the competitions linked to education, such as the Leonard Essay Prize, the Speaking Prize and Reading Prize. In tennis, shooting, swimming and gymnastics the standard was probably higher than in previous years, and in the main sports of hockey, cricket and rugby Ridley's teams were just about all-conquering, at least in inter-school competition.

This high standard in both education and athletics carried forward through 1920 into 1921, for Ridley seemed to be in the ascendancy in all things. It was a wonderful culmination of more than thirty years of shaping and fostering the scholastic policies, customs and traditions, and all the fine attributes of Ridley's life, by Dr. Miller. That it was a culmination, a finish, was suddenly evident on Prize Day in 1920. For the first time since 1890 he was missing; he had been granted leave of absence for a year; Mr. Griffith and Mr. Williams were left jointly in charge; and he was on his way around the world to pay visits to all the major British countries and most of the accessible small outposts of the British Empire.

Vice-Principal Williams presided in his place on Prize Day and Mr. Griffith called up the prize-winners. Archdeacon Cody gave one of his eloquent addresses, and General C. H. C. Mitchell, Dean of the School of Practical Science, U. of T., after presenting the prizes, addressed the parents and boys. (His subject: Trust, Training and Thoroughness.)

	MASON GOLD MEDAL FOR TRUE MANLINESS (on the vote of the boys)	HEAD BOY (Governor-General's Gold Medal)	HEAD BOY of the Lower School (Mason Gold Medal)
1919	A. R. Glass	E. L. Weaver	J. S. Weatherston
1920	C. J. Barr	H. F. Biggar	T. A. McAvity
1921	C. R. Somerville	A. S. Kingsmill	H. W. Wynn

It had seemed strange not to have Dr. Miller preside as usual on Prize Day in 1920, and at the same annual function in 1921 it was announced that the Headmaster of Ridley for thirty-two years had resigned.

Most of his close friends had known something of Dr. Miller's probable intention; they had noted how he was straightening out his affairs and turning responsibilities over to Mr. Williams and Mr. Griffith; but to others his resignation was a shock because they feared it could mean a momentous change. He had not been certain when he asked for a year's leave of absence to travel; he would make up his mind at a distance, when he could look back at Ridley from a perspective free of distractions and so remote that his sentiment and deep love for Ridley would not interfere with his judgment. Whatever was best for the School must be done. This was the important factor; would it be best for Ridley if he postponed his resignation or if he stepped out now?

The fact that all things were not only well with the School but that Ridley was prospering and in a sound position financially, while also holding the

confidence of all institutions of higher learning, no doubt made his decision for him when he was in New Zealand. He sent his resignation from Auckland, New Zealand, to President George H. Gooderham:

Dear Mr. Gooderham:

Before leaving Canada last June I intimated to you my intention of retiring from the Principalship of Ridley College, and I now beg leave to offer to the Board of Directors my resignation.

At the end of the school year 1920, I completed a period of service to the College of thirty-two years, during which time I had never been away for more than three months at one time and that only twice. These long years of service justify me, as I think, in asking the Board to relieve me and to appoint a successor.

It is not without many pangs that I give up a work which has occupied all my thoughts and energies from its inception, but it is a great consolation to leave Ridley at the time of its greatest prosperity and to see gathered around it friends whose lavish generosity will doubtless make its future secure.

Once more I would express to you personally my gratitude for what you have done for the School at a time when it needed help more than it does today, and for many acts of kindness to me ever since your sons first came to Ridley.

With very kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
J. O. Miller

The deluge of letters and telegrams from Old Ridleians left no doubt of their consciousness of the magnitude of the debt which the School owed to Dr. Miller. It was a feeling which would grow deeper with the years.

The disturbance – the “momentous change” – which many friends of Ridley had feared when they heard the news on Prize Day on June 22 did not occur because care had been taken that it would not. Dr. Miller’s formal letter of resignation had already been read to the General Meeting of the Board on May 4. Mr. J. H. Ingersoll, who acted as chairman on Prize Day, could thus also announce that Mr. H. C. Griffith and Mr. H. G. Williams, who had been carrying on in Dr. Miller’s absence, had been given new appointments. They were named joint principals, Mr. Griffith of the Upper School and Mr. Williams of the Lower School.

The Prize Day address of the Venerable Archdeacon Cody, M.A., D.D., who had been a master in Ridley’s first year and who was thus an Original Ridleian, even if on the staff, confirmed this confidence in Mr. Griffith and Mr. Williams as he traced their long association with Ridley and paid tribute to Dr. Miller. Extracts are given below:

The first principal of Ridley College, the Rev. J. O. Miller, M.A., D.C.L., has tendered his resignation to the Board. Dr. Miller has had a year's leave of absence from his duties at Ridley and has spent that time in visiting the Motherland and the other overseas self-governing Dominions, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. At the end of the school year of 1920, Dr. Miller completed his thirty-second year of service in the school. He inaugurated its work in 1889, guided its development through critical years, spent upon it his best thought and energy and now leaves it at the time of its greatest prosperity, when its position is well established and its educational future assured. Dr. Miller has earned the right to less strenuous years and carries with him the best wishes of his many friends and the gratitude of many generations of his old pupils. His pen will doubtless be employed in furthering the cause of good citizenship in the Dominion and the Empire. The board of Ridley College are recognizing Dr. Miller's long years of faithful service by providing a generous retiring allowance.

The Board have, in view of Dr. Miller's resignation, appointed Mr. H. C. Griffith, M.A., to be principal of the Upper School and Mr. H. G. Williams, B.A. (London), to be principal of the Lower School.

Mr. Griffith's appointment will be widely welcomed. It is the first instance in Canada in which an "old boy" has been appointed principal of his school. Mr. Griffith entered Ridley in September, 1889, on the day the School opened. He remained until he became Head Boy and Senior Prefect, wearing as well his cricket and football colours. He knows a boarding school thoroughly from the boy's point of view. He entered Trinity University in 1896, with the Dickson Scholarship in Modern Languages and with honours in Classics and English. He graduated with his Bachelor's degree in 1899, as prizeman in moderns, while during his college course he maintained his interest in cricket and football. He returned to Ridley as modern language master from 1899 to 1907 and served as housemaster from 1903 to 1907. He took his M.A. degree in 1902. From 1907 to 1911 he held the professorship of French in Trinity College and was a member of the Senate of the University of Toronto and famed throughout the Dominion as coach of champions of the gridiron. In 1911 he returned to Ridley College as headmaster of the Upper School and has rendered splendid service in that capacity for the last ten years. He has been as keen on securing a high scholastic standard in the school as on inspiring and maintaining its athletic eminence.

Mr. H. G. Williams, who now becomes principal of the Lower School, is a distinguished graduate of the University of London. He came to Ridley in 1891 as mathematics master. Since 1899 he has been headmaster of the Lower School and has proved himself to be an ideal teacher and leader of junior boys. He has been able, with the help of his staff, to start the formation of the characters of those boys who pass through the Lower School along those lines for which Ridley stands, and the mark of such training under Mr. Williams is left upon a boy throughout his career at Ridley and doubtless is one of the most valuable assets to him in his career in later life. Mr. Williams remains in full charge of the Lower

School. The ideals and destinies of Ridley will be safe in the keeping of the two principals.

. . . The most important thing about any school is the school spirit, the complex of ideals for which the School stands and which the staff and pupils seek to realize. The crest of Ridley College is a burning candle with the motto (Thomas Carlyle's motto) "Terar dum prosim" – "Let me be spent in service." This motto was the conscious and subconscious inspiration of the gallant youths who sprang to the defence of freedom, truth and justice, and is the high aim to set before the boys of today as they are fitting themselves to play their citizen part in this fair Dominion.

The high proportion of Ridley matriculants in the 1921 examinations was further confirmation of the scholastic status the School had attained. The Sixth Form had developed in both numbers and level of scholarship, with increasing satisfaction for the staff. The following were duly congratulated in *Acta*:

Honour Matriculation, University of Toronto: Boles, Breithaupt, Coleman, Harrison, Kingsmill, McMurray ma, W. Pearson, Shearson, Snyder, Somerville.

Pass Matriculation (complete): Biggar, Jas. Goldie, Orme, C. T. Pearson, Robinson.

Pass Matriculation (partial): Baker, Bright ma, Carter, Cooper, Douglas, Eby, A. G. Goldie, Hunter, R. Johnston, Law, Leigh, Phin, Weaver.

McGill Matriculation: Glassco, Hansard, Bell (partial).

R.M.C. Entrance: Pettit, Trent, B. B. Osler.

When Dr. Miller came back to Canada he was often at Ridley as *Principal Emeritus*, but his home was now to be in Toronto, with his daughter Nannette and his son-in-law, Laddie (Hamilton) Cassels, K.C.

It was at the Christmas banquet of the Old Boys' Association in Toronto in 1921 that the Old Ridleians had their first opportunity to hail Ridley's first headmaster since his retirement. They hailed him but they did not say farewell. He would be with them often. They gave him a prolonged, standing ovation, because the complete gift of himself and his life to their school was suddenly realized and fully understood.

Walt Caldecott, President of the Old Boys' Association was in the chair and, as secretary, Harry Griffith pronounced this Annual Dinner as second to none the Old Boys had held since 1899. The President of Ridley, Mr. G. H. Gooderham, presented Dr. Miller with an illuminated address, as a token of appreciation for his long years of service to Ridley, and the emotion and warmth of Dr. Miller's thanks were long remembered. So was one of the Christmas *Triolettes* he had composed, and which he read during the silent toast to Ridley's war-dead. Here is one stanza:

The years that speed with winged feet!
(A health to Ridley ere we go!)
Whose yoke has fitted us to meet
The years that speed with winged feet.
Some Ridleian lives are now complete
What odds, since they had learned to sow
The years that speed with winged feet?
– A health to Ridley ere we go!

Dr. Miller was not only to be a regular attendant at the Old Boys' gatherings, the Miller tradition was kept alive at Ridley in a familiar way through the living tradition of Ridley families – the sons who followed fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers into the classes and life of the School. Dr. Miller's grandson Tony (Hamilton) Cassels was to be at Ridley from 1928 to 1936 and would be president of the Old Boys' Association in 1959, and his great-grandson, Robert Cassels, would enter Ridley in 1958.

Dr. Miller's part in the birth and then in the steady moulding of Ridley were the things that really mattered in his thirty-two years of service. He had helped inspire Ridley's creation; he had personally raised much of the money for its first home, Springbank, and he had then watched over its infant and adolescent years with loving concentration and great wisdom. His choice of masters had often been admired for he knew men, but he knew boys, too. It was his innate knowledge of boys, and his sincerely sympathetic understanding of them, which provided his most important quality as a headmaster, especially one who had a new school's spirit to inspire, its atmosphere to create and its character to mould. It was this warm understanding of boys which gave him his success in shaping the nature, the character of Ridley. He gave the School its educational philosophy even as he formed the pattern of Ridley's life.

Everything he had established had by now been well tested, with some things refined and altered, yet it is remarkable how little was changed in 1921 from the base he had created in Ridley's first years and from which Ridleian values and viewpoints sprouted and grew strong. There were steadfast elements; they were still unchanged in 1959 despite the influences of materialism which assailed them.

No Old Ridleian will scorn the sentimental emotion in the feeling that a school can possess a soul, for they know of Ridley's. It may be just a medley of mellow memories of many boy faces and voices, all with brave ideals and manly principles and of a school spirit that leaps into life with the start of every term, but to them it is very real. And its chief architect was the white-bearded, scholarly Headmaster who had instilled his ideals and high principles, fostered the Ridley spirit and shaped the School's philosophy over so many years.

Into the Roaring Twenties

“There were so many new pressures and problems for Ridley’s administration that this irresponsible decade represents the most difficult of all eras in the School’s first seventy years.”

A NEW PHASE of administration opened for Ridley with 1922 which saw two of the School’s most respected and longest-serving masters appointed to joint control. It is rare that dual responsibility and divided authority will result in successful leadership, but both Mr. H. C. Griffith, who was appointed principal of the Upper School, and Mr. H. G. Williams, appointed principal of the Lower School, were rare men, each in his own way. The complete devotion to Ridley of both masters had been proven long ago and, besides, there had been reassurance for the Board in a year’s trial of the plan for dual principalship during Dr. Miller’s leave of absence. Harmonious and successful direction of Ridley had resulted.

Ridley was fortunate to possess such a team. Mr. Griffith had been one of the original students of 1889, and except for his period of seven years as a student and then as a professor of French at Trinity College, he had been closely associated with Ridley ever since. Without a break he had been honorary secretary of the Old Boys’ Association from the time it had been organized on a firm footing in the late Nineties. Mr. Williams had been at Ridley even longer in consecutive years. He had joined the teaching staff in 1891 and had been vice-principal, in charge of the Lower School ever since its establishment (as the Junior School) in 1898.

The dual appointment was accompanied by a specific directive from the Board on how authority was to be divided, but to be effective the terms of any such document must still be supported by personal forbearance, balanced judgment and a true co-operative spirit. The directive said, among other things, that each was to have direction not only over the scholastic affairs of his particular school but also over everything pertaining to the welfare of his students. The Board was supremely confident there would be

neither conflict nor confused direction in over-all policy, which the document covered in this way:

“In all matters pertaining to the general policy of the whole school, Mr. Griffith and Mr. Williams shall act jointly and with equal voice, and should they be unable to agree, any such disagreement shall be referred to the Local Board for decision.”

It was a precautionary rule of procedure to which they never had to resort.

The most assured thing was that there would be no change in the Ridley philosophy of education, nor in the values and principles fostered by Ridley. Both principals had been associated with the School for so long that each was a personal part of its tradition and ideals for each had helped to mould them for many years.

Rep Williams and Harry Griffith were not alike, but somehow one seemed to complement the other. Mr. Griffith was a scholar and a musician and a forceful man who was to drive constantly from this point forward for great physical additions to Ridley, most of which were achieved. He had always been an energetic inspiration behind many facets of school life, including *Acta Ridleiana* and the Glee Club in an earlier day. When he retired, his great skill as a football coach was still seen as the outstanding phase of all his extra-curricular activities; it extended nearly forty years and in all that time no rival school could ever boast of a greater coach. Often overlooked was his skill as a coach of cricket. He may have been most famous for creating, training and directing great football teams, but he was also acknowledged to be one of the outstanding coaches in Canadian cricket. And his prominence in Ridley's athletic life may have caused his scholarship to be overlooked in turn; he was a great scholar and a fine musician.

The formal educational policy of Ridley at this period could probably be characterized as “progressively conservative”, to indicate that it was very far from old-fashioned but that it was also policy not to go completely overboard for radical and unproved innovations in teaching methods. An educational argument was now proceeding in current publications which could be called *Imaginative vs Orthodox Teaching*. Ridley's policy was certainly imaginative, even if there was still great reliance on memorization. Ridley's masters still gave “lines” for punishment, for instance, but the effort was constant to prevent classroom work from becoming mechanical, especially in mathematics which can easily become dull and routine. There was an illustration in the Lower School. It may not have been custom to teach short-cuts in arithmetic, but the ten-year-old who was discovered adding 19 to 19 by subtracting 2 from 40, and had been doing it ever since he was six, was not told he was wrong.

It was imagination which caused Mr. Brock to forget to scold when he

caught a group of small boys using the top of his master's desk for a caterpillar race. Instead, he converted their fun into a lesson in human relations. They were guiding their furry racers toward a red-chalk finish line with their slate pencils, but most of their caterpillars had curled up and quit because they were blocked so often.

"If you constantly thwart and blockade people, they'll do that to you, too," said Mr. Brock. "Encourage them, and they'll co-operate. . . . *Now clean up that desk!*" he roared, and how he could roar!

In the Upper School interest in the classroom was kept alight by the imagination of the masters. Imagination was a quality always sought by Principal Griffith in sizing up possible new masters. He considered it as important as their scholastic qualifications. He said, "Orthodoxy can easily be just another name for a rut."

Rep Williams believed in imagination, too, while his interests were almost entirely focused on his beloved Lower School. The junior boys were the centre of his affection and of his ambition which simply was sincerely and effectively to teach them well. He loved teaching and younger boys. He knew small boys so well that he could look at each one as you look at a prism and could see light reflecting on the yearnings, impulses and secret conflicts of the young mind. The affection which he won is still deep in the memories of many living Old Boys. To them this period of his joint principalship was richly deserved recognition of the instruction, guidance and strength of character he had given to so many younger Ridleians over so many years. A little later (in 1928) it was estimated that a total of 718 boys had passed through the Lower School, including the original Junior School. They all belonged to Rep Williams; each of them carried away something of him.

Part of the deep regard for the master by his boys came simply from their unconscious realization that Mr. Williams honestly liked to see them looking up at him, their eyes and faces holding puzzlement or wonder, or at times impatience to volunteer a young opinion. Rep Williams always seemed to sense the shock to a dreaming small boy who hears an adult being brutally scornful of a boy's soaring imagery. He had a gentle way of bringing him down to earth, perhaps because he firmly believed that it was the men of imagination, the dreamers, who led the practical men of science and technology to their greatest advances.

"It does no harm to any of us now and then to permit the things we imagine or only feel to make a mockery of the things we know, or think we know," Rep Williams once said. "You don't have to believe in fairies, but you should believe in boys believing in them, at least a little."

He could be remarkably patient with the plodders, believing that a little too much could be made of the brilliant student. Statements by Mr. Williams during these days are recalled which indicate that he agreed with Dr. Miller's

long-established conviction of the importance of the so-called average students, because they make up the bulk of society and, after all, the seeds of great achievements are often rooted in the faithful, steady and sometimes obscure. As Mr. Williams once put it to a parent: "Academic brilliance is not assurance that a boy will develop greatness as a man. First of all are the qualities of sound character and viewpoint." He was virtually quoting the creed of Ridley.

To many, Mr. Williams may have appeared to be a man without ambition because nothing drove him to seek either money or position. But he had one great, unselfish ambition; that was to live his life in the service of others, of his boys. The satisfactions of teaching were enough for him; when he saw his boys succeeding in adult life, while holding fast to the principles he had taught, he felt richly rewarded.

He always talked man-talk to his boys, without the slightest hint of adult condescension, yet he often related fables as illustrations to impress young minds. Earlier he had won the dubbing *Rip Rep Aesop* for a term or so over this addiction. His version of the Aesop fable of the *Sun and Wind* is so well recalled, it must have been his favourite in suggesting that friendliness and kindness can be more effective in dealing with others than bluster and blowing. As he told it:

"The Wind and the Sun once had a great argument about which one was the more powerful. They agreed that the one which could make a traveller take off his cloak would be declared the winner. The Wind blusteringly declared he would have the first crack at it.

"Huffing and puffing and blowing like Old Sixty, he fairly ripped into the traveller whose cloak was almost torn off his back – almost, but not quite! Taking a firmer grip, the traveller wrapped it around himself more tightly and defied the terrific efforts of the Wind.

"Then the Sun had a go!

"Shining brightly, it soon made the traveller aware of its friendly warmth. Completely relaxed and happy, he willingly took off his cloak and hung it over his arm."

He would then say; "You cannot knock your ideas into others' heads. No one likes to be bullied. But you can do a lot by warm friendliness."

He would next add: "When you are leaders of men you should remember that." Somehow, Mr. Williams could use a high-sounding term like "leaders of men" without inspiring a single small-boy jeer. That is quite a feat, as anyone knows who knows ten- to fourteen-year-olds.

PRESENTATION OF GOODERHAM HOUSE

THE two principals had taken over joint administration as the first building in the School's ambitious plan for expansion was being completed. The ceremony of the formal presentation of Gooderham House was Ridley's most important public event of 1922. The erection of Gooderham House was, of course, also the most notable single item in the creation of the enlarged Ridley, but there were also other significant improvements, for the Dean's House had been renovated and the interior of School House had been greatly changed. As *Acta* explained:

"A great many thousands of dollars have been spent, and the School shows it. Probably the improvements most talked about and appreciated has been the installing of a new hot-water system. No longer does one hear about taps being turned and only cold water forthcoming.

"Classroom accommodation has been increased, a Reception Room has been provided, and Colonel Thairs now has a complete set of offices.

"Both the School House and the Dean's House have received wall decoration. In both buildings, cupboards and fixed wardrobes have been fitted.

"One could go on . . . but we will conclude with the new Sick Room. This is now on the Upper Flat of the School House, and includes Main Infirmary, Suspect Room, kitchens, bathrooms and nurses' quarters. We advise the Old Boys to take a last look around, for they no longer have to go to the Sick Room for a roosting place."

Although boys had been occupying Gooderham House since the previous fall it was not until Sports Day on May 26, 1922, that the formal presentation of the building was made, but their presence did not detract from the impressiveness of the ceremony; instead, it added to appreciation of the functional value of this magnificent gift. The new dormitory to accommodate fifty boys and three resident masters had been erected at a cost of \$288,000, entirely through the generosity of the brothers, Mr. George H. Gooderham, President of the Board, and Major Ross Gooderham who would be the next president. Designed in "collegiate Gothic" style by Sproatt and Rolph, it had three storeys and was constructed of red brick with white stone facings.

A large number of parents, Old Boys and friends of Ridley had converged on St. Catharines and the School from all parts of Canada, all wanting to hear the Gooderham brothers tell how their admiration for the qualities of manliness and good sportsmanship fostered by Ridley, as well as the contribution in scholastic education the School was making, had inspired their gift. Mr. A. Courtney Kingstone, Vice-President and an Old Ridleian, formally accepted the magnificent building on behalf of the Board.

Dr. Miller, in his new role of *Principal Emeritus*, offered the prayer of dedication.

Both Principal Griffith and Principal Williams spoke, the latter not forgetting to express the hope that some day such a generous gift could be made to the Lower School. Mr. Griffith particularly stressed a striking new feature of the School provided by Gooderham House: a wing was reserved for the use of the Old Boys whenever they visited Ridley. Principal Griffith assured them that no rules would be attached to its use. He also stated a great truth when he said that "no school exists in the world where former students display more loyalty to their old school than do the Old Boys of Ridley".

With the beautiful Memorial Chapel which the Old Boys were giving to Ridley also well on the way, there was good reason for Ridleian satisfaction in the rapid postwar transformation being achieved in the imposing appearance of the physical school. More was promised. Early in 1922 there was also a broad hint of still another new dormitory, the one Mr. Williams was asking for, with the financing tentatively planned.

The following Old Boys and friends of Ridley had just donated \$11,000 to the School by making gifts of their bonds: Mr. A. and Mr. N. Forbes; Mrs. George Hope; Col. R. W. Leonard; Mr. A. Longwell; Mr. J. B. Richardson and Mr. A. Robinson and, at the same time, Colonel Leonard added \$5,000 in cash to his bonds which he said was part of a total gift of \$25,000 which was to be the nucleus of still another building fund. Colonel Leonard specifically said it was to erect the dormitory building of a contemplated new Intermediate School.

If we seem to imply that Ridley had settled very early in these postwar years into her old school pattern and atmosphere, we have been misleading. Even before 1922 Ridley knew there would be no return to the old comfortable ways of pre-1914 and was already feeling the first impact of the Roaring Twenties, or the Jazz Age, or the Crazy Decade. Whichever appellation you prefer is justified. After the war's end the head-on clash gained momentum fast between a stubborn old guard of moralists – the last of the Victorians – and the younger generation who were soon in rebellion against the social and moral codes of their elders. It was an explosive social war with weird facets. On one side were the inflexible moralists, blindly determined to impose their personal concept for human behaviour on the whole continent by compulsion, an ill-judged strategy that was high-lighted, of course, by their pyrrhic victory called Prohibition. On the other side was youth, revelling in being called the poor, disillusioned Lost Generation, demanding freedom and considering all the old restrictions of polite society to be fair game for their ridicule. They had no strategy in the beginning and were in fact without direction or plan or even conscious intention as they went into revolt against all forms of repression. Even the rapid growth in family motor cars was their ally in audacious irresponsibility for a car could take them away from parental eyes. In their abandonment to high revelry, meant to defy the old verities

of their fathers, they often forgot that true freedom must include self-imposed discipline or it becomes licence.

This postwar rebellion of youth should not be confused with revulsion to war. The terrible conflict had imposed an almost unbearable strain on the minds of all peoples, but widespread war-revulsion did not develop into action until the second postwar decade when it followed the new habit of complete abandonment of sensible caution and of a realistic view. It took the form of blind, all-out pacifism, with its idealism embraced with such reckless fervour that wholesale disarmament followed in nearly all countries – in the face of a warlike Germany where a new demigod had already risen. The licence of the Roaring Twenties was a reaction to war strain, it is true, but the revulsion was toward the oldsters who had led the world into its frightful mess. Youth's urge was to flout any and all authority including, of course, that of parents and schoolmasters.

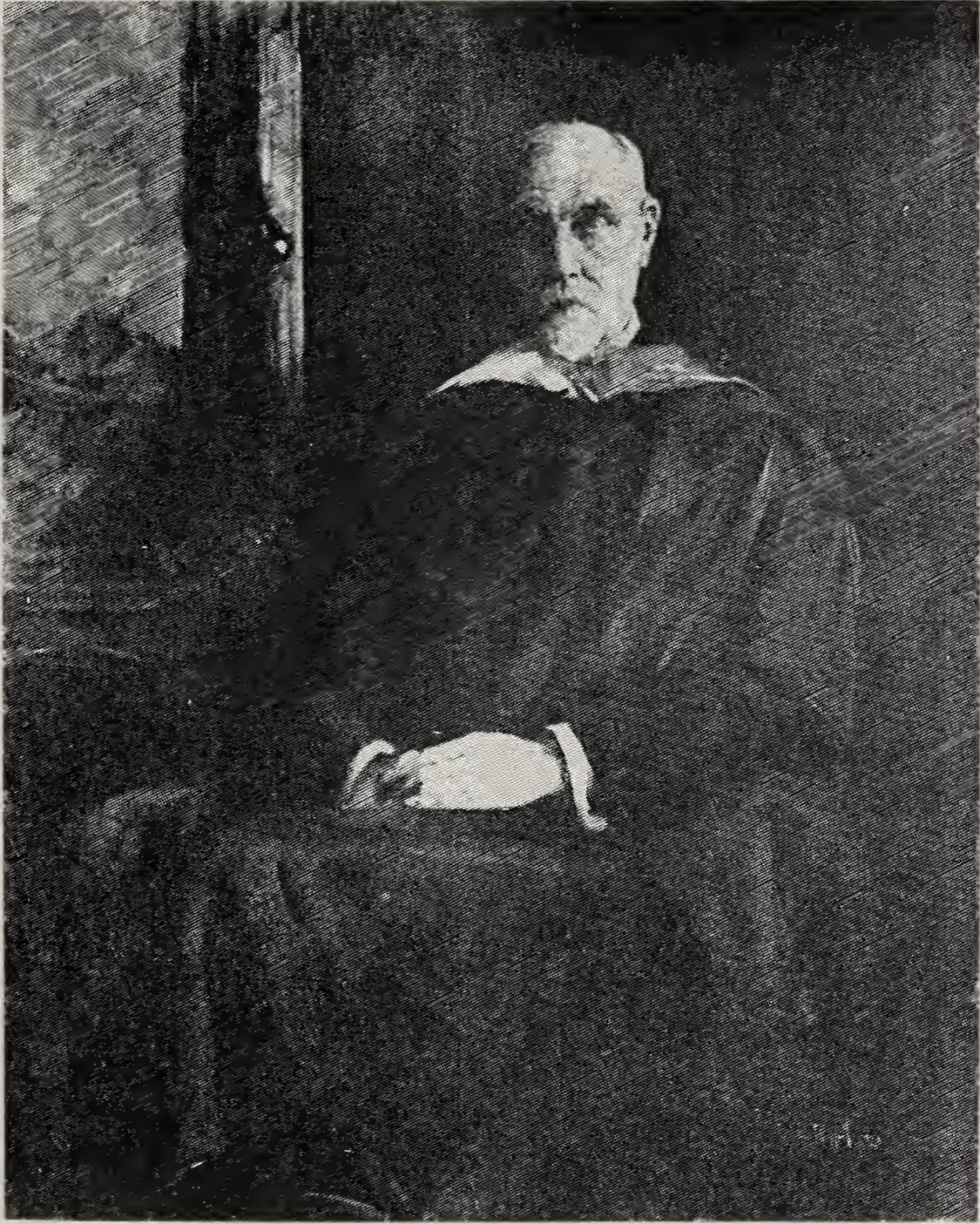
When the universities became infected, which was almost at once, anything that was radical or unorthodox was vociferously supported by the young intellectuals. In the realm of higher education, the revolt against repression took the form of a demand for full intellectual freedom, for the right of dissent to all the established conventions, including religion. The muddled campus craze for psychoanalysis also quickly developed, with Freud, Adler and Jung glibly quoted as brilliant authorities of a wonderful new doctrine only vaguely understood. It was wonderful because it warned about the grave harm which could result from suppressing normal impulses and desires. It was also wonderful because it was perfect support for the disciples of Freedom Uninhibited.

H. L. Mencken, professed atheist and a leader of youth's iconoclasm, was loudly lauded, principally because he ridiculed all the old gods including democracy itself. It soon no longer took nerve for a coon-coated undergraduate to "pat his God on the head", for to proclaim himself an atheist or at least an agnostic, was the popular thing to do, even if his inherent, secret respect for religion and the beliefs he had been taught were choking him.

It is because what was happening was so important to the future of Ridley's boys that we make so much here of the upheaval in social concepts which occurred during the Roaring Twenties. The boys of Ridley did not know or care what was developing; they only knew that life was interesting and exciting, even if they had their parents' word for it that the code of public conduct was changing with dismaying speed. This was especially true of Canada; the most drastic upheaval which the still young country had ever known in its way of life was taking place.

It was particularly important that Canada's schoolmasters should see that a new world was in the making, for they were training youth to live in it and somehow had to armour them for it.

Dr. Miller Retires



THE FIRST HEADMASTER RETIRES

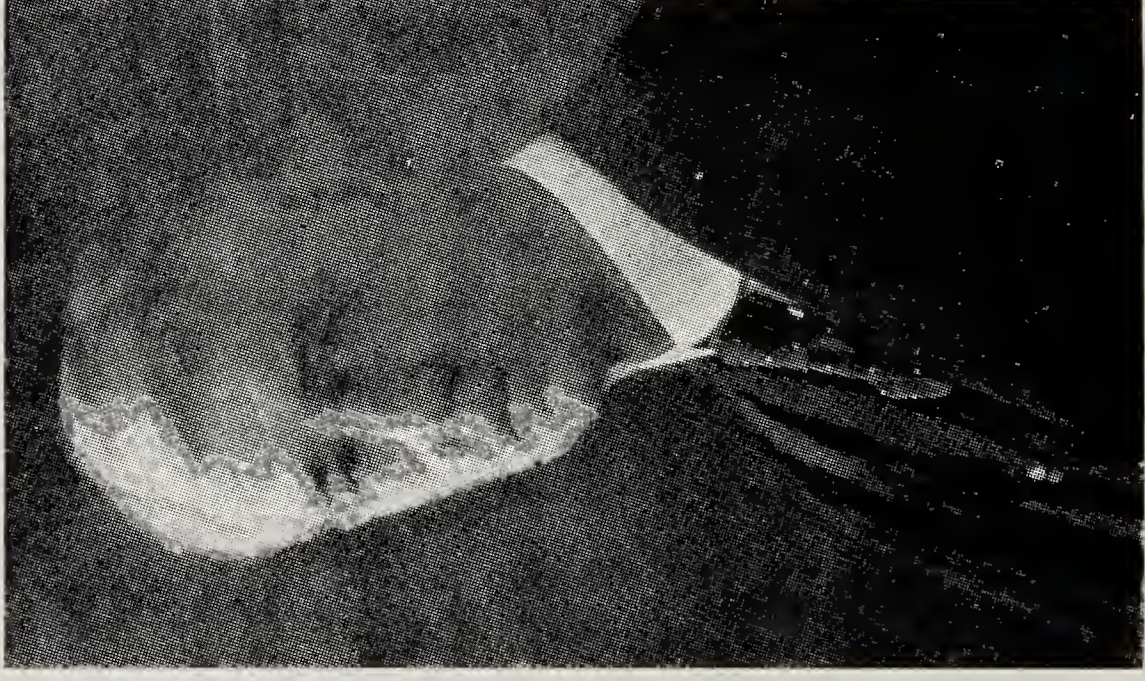
The Reverend J. O. Miller, M.A., D.C.L. retired after 32 years as Headmaster, dating from the founding of Ridley. He resigned in 1921 by letter from New Zealand while spending a year in travel. Reproduced above is John Russell's portrait in oils which now hangs in the Great Hall.

The Joint Principals

— Administrative Arrangements, 1922 to 1932 —



MR. H. C. GRIFFITH, M.A.



MR. H. G. WILLIAMS, B.A.

Responsible for much of the nonsense of the Crazy Decade, and the reason why the tempo of life in American cities was furiously accelerated in boisterous abandon, was such an economic boom – following the depression of 1921 – that the ticker-tapes of the stock exchanges could not keep pace with transactions. Fantastic fortunes were being made overnight by 1925 and lost just as quickly or spent lavishly. It had only been necessary for economic recovery to become prosperity, and adults succumbed to the drums and the carnival spirit. The mad orgy of the Roaring Twenties then went off with a whoop (with the word whoopee coined). A new social stratum called the New Rich was created. The new music, jazz, was blaring and thumping while people danced the tango or the Charleston with feverish intensity.

What was gained by the young disciples of dissent is difficult to discern. Much was lost in weakened respect for the principles of decency.

The campaign of the young intellectuals against the old social concepts had a lasting effect. They went far beyond the bounds of sensible restraint in putting the past in total disrepute and in preaching contempt and scorn for all the well-proven old things; but in the end they contrived to change the intellectual, social and political profile of the continent, for good or for ill. On balance it was for ill because much of the damage done to public attitudes was never restored.

Rated a gain by rebel youth was the final emancipation of women which the moralists brought upon themselves by going too far in their attempt to regulate human behaviour and morals by compulsion. In the United States some ridiculous state laws were passed on how women should dress: in Ohio a lady's skirt by law must reach the part of the foot known as the instep; in Virginia a law narrowly escaped adoption which prohibited the display of more than three inches of a woman's throat. In defiance, the feminine code of behaviour was changed more drastically than any other and more permanently, too. The immediate answer was the short-skirted flapper, whooping it up.

The most daring thing the men did in clothing was to adopt the Oxford bags for a time, but it was no more permanent than the flagpole-sitting craze launched by Shipwreck Kelly.

The Hays office, established to police the motion-picture business, was a permanent development. So were the regular radio programmes begun by the British Broadcasting Corporation in 1922 and the history made by Shackleton at the South Pole. Unhappily such fine things were lost to mind quickly in the feverish revelry of irresponsible years.

There had been nothing to forecast, for either Canada or Ridley, the coming of this drastic upheaval in old concepts of human behaviour and manner of living. From the first Armistice Day of 1918 to today most of the world has been in a state of constant change, and no educational institution anywhere

has been able to avoid a direct and disturbing psychological reaction to the inevitable alteration and sometimes serious deterioration in social values. The truth of this inability to escape the effects of change could hardly be more clearly illustrated than it was in Canadian and American schools and colleges and among the two peoples between 1920 and 1930.

It was probably felt more sharply in Canada because the Canadian people had traditionally lived in a combination of austerity, honesty and simplicity, if also perhaps with too severe a rigidity about being sensible and moderate. The uproarious era came as a shock to this characteristic conservatism of Canadians. Just because they never did things as lavishly as Americans they probably changed less in the end, but their sudden intimate acquaintance with bootleggers and broken laws, crooked cops and disdain for the law, flagpole sitters and marathon dancers, and almost anything that was bizarre and unorthodox, was a startling thing to most thinking Canadians and to all of the older generations.

As for Ridley, just as the School had been unable to avoid living close to the war or to escape its influences, despite its geographical remoteness, it was again impossible for Ridley – or any other school – to remain immune to the confusion in the living pattern of the outside world. The effects were naturally strongest among the seniors, but old attitudes were so altered that the Roaring Twenties tested the dual principalship of Ridley with a harshness that should be remembered. There were so many new pressures and problems for Ridley's administration that this represents the most difficult of all eras in the School's first seventy years.

To realize that this is not an exaggeration it is only necessary to remember that nothing in modern times has matched the Crazy Decade in upheaving familiar conventions, values and living habits of Americans and Canadians. A lot was left untarnished in Canada, of course, for many Canadians desired and somehow contrived to live honestly and simply and to hold hard to the old homely axioms whose truths had kept Canadian life on a fairly even keel for so long. But Canada could not escape the undermining influences, especially not her youth. The economic collapse of 1929 brought on a more significant and deeper social upheaval than was now occurring, but the challenge to the old moral code – and to Ridley's principles and ideals – was never so insidious or so strong as it was from the pressure of the Roaring Twenties.

The reason was quite clear. Regardless of the period's many facets, its confused causes and the temporary or permanent nature of its results it was the very base of social stability – respect for law and for the obligations of good citizenship – which was most seriously threatened.

There was nothing wrong with jazz, or with Flaming Youth, or with the great numbers of coon-skin coats worn by the escorts of short-skirted flappers in the intercollegiate football stadia, but there was in the high proportion of

hip-flasks under the coon-skins and the general feeling that a drink was so customary it was not even daring; it was just the thing to do. The deplorable deterioration in respect for the law reacted strongly, sometimes violently, on student behaviour.

All schoolmasters in Canada felt the strain for all schools were undergoing an ordeal, whether independent or state-controlled, and it was equally true that thanks did not come to an academic staff from the careless, indifferent public, but only in personal satisfaction for a dedicated teacher. Ridley's masters were more fortunate than most; they at least had the appreciation of the Board who knew of their problems.

The Canadian public is quick to criticize the educational policies of the provincial departments of education or to find fault with a rural board of trustees, and the teacher in either a one-room country school or a large city school is always vulnerable even to rumour and gossip. The steadying influence and wise counsel of the country's school-teachers to their students in disturbed times such as the Roaring Twenties – and each Canadian social era from now forward was to be disturbed – has been taken so much for granted that the debt is seldom remembered. It is a great debt, too often repaid with ingratitude, niggardliness about salaries and criticism about academic standards for which the critics are too often not prepared to pay in cash.

The two principals of Ridley were aware very early that too many parents had grown careless about retaining the respect of their sons. They saw that lack of general adult restraint was producing bad examples of parental conduct, and if the great proportion of Ridley's boys were unaffected the staff knew of a shocking number of disturbed boys in the School. A good schoolmaster is always a good practical psychologist, and now his patience, sympathy and understanding became highly important. His good judgment and kindly counsel had an enormous value.

Both principals were now having added botherations through the rapid advance of motoring since the war. Boys in private schools are deprived of the tantalizing thrill of playing hooky which boys know in the public schools. But skipping classes to go hitch-hiking was even more daring; it had much the same thrill – and penalty. ("We went to Hamilton this afternoon – thumb-how.") Mr. Griffith's cane was busy, especially after two boys were gone all night, claiming they had run into a fog – the kind that still occasionally gives all traffic "the creeps" in the Niagara Peninsula.

Hitch-hiking was just one mild element of the Roaring Twenties to keep things lively and the parade to the Principal's office for a caning almost perpetual. There is many an Old Boy today who can still feel the Principal's cane strokes with wry discomfort. (Heard outside the Principal's office in the line-up for caning: "Tell me again how much fun we had. I keep forgetting.")

Not unnaturally, some of the seniors became infected by the radical intel-

lectualism so popular in the universities; they liked to appear sophisticated, too; but they did not get far in the rebellion against all forms of repression, and nowhere at all against Ridley's method of control. They soon knew where they stood with Principal Griffith, who nevertheless had for awhile such a multiplication of new disciplinary episodes to handle that it would have been a miracle if his cane had not been in frequent use.

The hitch-hiking craze caused a lot of those episodes, but like all other fads and fancies of the boys it tapered off. It was intensified during its first spring by the challenge to be the boy to travel the record distance, and back. At least one dormitory kept records of distances and penalties: 'To the Falls – six strokes' or 'To Hamilton twice in a week; caught once, ten strokes.' One boy was carried all the way to St. Thomas by mistake, and found he had to face both his father and the Principal when he got back next day at noon.

Being boys they seldom paused to estimate whether the adventure was worth the pain. This was because the disciplinary value of a caning became dubious; to be caned by the Head was soon viewed as the trademark of the proper Ridley boy, if not a greater accolade. It was certainly not considered a disgrace; instead, the boy who had not had his caning was in danger of the disparaging status of odd-ball. To avoid that, he would soon see to it that he joined the caned fraternity. One group of Fifth Formers (toward the end of the Twenties) took an oath to get themselves caned during the term. ("We did it for some crazy reason on our first night in Fifth. It just seemed like a good idea. Each time one of us succeeded, we held the usual inspection in the bathroom – to count the strokes on the hero's behind. We held a roll call every night in the dark, and only a boy who had been caned would answer, 'Adsum – six strokes' – or ten, if the Head had felt like it. The shame was awful while my name had to go unanswered, so I deliberately got myself caught going to the store. That made it 100 per cent – the whole dorm caned by the Head.")

There was a much greater boy-honour – to be whacked with the flat of a cadet officer's sword. Quite unofficially, the prefects could now cane for some offences. If the junior's misdemeanour had to do with cadet work, the officers – generally prefects – could apply the flat of their ceremonial sword. The disciplinary value was even more dubious than that of the Principal's cane. Quite a ceremony was made of the punishment; the culprit was marched to the gym under escort and the whacks applied in a PT movement. An N.C.O. would command "Bend!" with the victim expected to touch his toes. "Whack!" would go the sword.

"Erect!" the N.C.O. would order, then, "Bend!" – and another whack. ("Sure, it hurt, but a junior was so distinguished in his dorm that night that the pain was more than worth it.") It probably made smart cadets out of them, too. At least one who had been whacked with the sword in the Twenties became a prefect and a fine cadet captain in the Thirties.

This hitch-hiking craze became briefly so serious that the Principal made the rounds of the Upper School's classrooms, just to point out the wisdom of not skipping class to go hitch-hiking. It had his usual pointed tag-line, "Of course, this is only a suggestion . . ." but they all knew who was making the suggestion and that it was actually a stern order from Authority. At the same time Principal Griffith liked boys of spirit and independence as long as their demonstrations did not challenge school discipline or constitute an imposition on others, such as serious class disruptions.

The Lower School was also affected by the new travel habit, and if Principal Williams believed in fostering self-reliance while a boy was still young, this kind of lone-hawk adventuring was going too far. He stepped down hard on class-skippers and hitch-hikers. They knew he liked to go along when a Lower School team fared abroad for cricket, football or hockey, and the teams liked to have him with them. His presence inspired them. He was not the kind of chaperone who was a spectator spoil-sport; he liked their noisy enthusiasm and was a sort of combination coach and fervent fan who felt their triumphs and disasters as deeply as they did.

Neither Mr. Griffith nor Mr. Williams was a cleric, but both had great respect for the influence of the Sunday evening chapel services and were determined to retain their popularity with the boys. They arranged to take turns presiding on Sunday evenings, but with Ridley's resident chaplain in 1922, the Rev. J. A. Davies and often the Rev. W. A. Howitt of St. Thomas', and once the Hon. W. D. MacPherson, assisting. (While Dr. Miller had been on leave, the Reverend Denny Bright had acted as school chaplain, with the Rev. Mr. Howitt assisting in an honorary capacity.) The boys were proud of their new chaplain; the Reverend Alban Davies was an old Oxonian; he had been at T.C.S. for one year and only stayed one year at Ridley, but the important things about him were that he had not only been a British Army padre but also an international rugby captain for Wales. Besides, he honoured the tradition about the Sunday evening chapel services which said all addresses were kept short. Unfortunately, he was at Ridley only for 1921-2.

A notable Sunday evening chapel service early that year was featured by a visit from the Reverend Tubby (P. B.) Clayton of Toc H (Talbot House), the famous club established in 1915 in the shattered Belgian town of Poperinghe, near Ypres. He told how the now historic sanctuary, an island of tranquillity in the midst of war's storm, with its revealing admonition at the entrance, *Abandon rank, all ye who enter here*, had developed into a movement which had established a Toc H in many cities in the United Kingdom and was now spreading throughout the Commonwealth. (*Postscript*: The brotherhood of Toc H did not develop, as it promised to do in 1922, into a world movement, but the sanctuary still carries on in rebuilt Poperinghe and its Toronto counterpart was still at 614 Huron Street in 1959.)

At about the same time the long and close association between Ridley and

St. Thomas' Church was sealed in a special way. Three beautiful windows (just behind the Third Form seats) were dedicated to the men of the parish who had sacrificed their lives in the war of 1914-18. The names of Ridley's own war-dead were included in the dedication ceremony, taken by the Venerable Archdeacon Armitage, former rector, and Ridley's first teacher of divinity who was largely responsible for originating many years before the strong school-church link. It also seemed to be particularly fitting that Colonel Thairs, who had instructed each one of Ridley's boys who had died as men in the armed services, should perform the unveiling. He was a sad but proud man, sad that so many of the boys he had drilled and coached in his quiet, firm and patient way had been lost, and proud that they had remained true to death to the spirit of Ridley and the Cadet Corps.

It was fortunate that 1922 saw the end of the frequent changes in masters which perhaps inevitably marked the early postwar years. Most of those who now came to the Upper or Lower School were career-teachers who stayed for a reasonable time; there were only occasional changes until the 1926-7 period. This provided stability for Ridley at the very time when much that had been steady and constant in Canadian life was coming unhinged. Further, some of the steadiest, most level-headed and valuable masters Ridley was to have now joined the staff to bolster the strong core of commonsense which the School already possessed in its existing masters. Commonsense, understanding and firmness were invaluable qualities. Two outstanding Ridley masters to join were Mr. J. R. Hamilton (1922) and Mr. R. S. Cockburn (1921).

Mr. Hamilton had interrupted his university training to join the Canadian Army, later transferring to the Royal Flying Corps, and then had returned to the University of Toronto, graduating in 1922. He joined Ridley at once to teach science. He arrived a mature man, and at first detested teaching; he even left briefly. But Ridley grew on him; before long he knew he would stay, had found his career. He contracted the conviction that no rewards or satisfactions could be more important to him than those of teaching. And he loved boys. In a remarkably short time he was a pillar of the Upper School then of Ridley itself. Before many years had passed Principal Griffith disclosed his respect for Mr. Hamilton's judgment and wonderful qualities as a master by recommending his appointment as his assistant. It almost seemed to be foreordained in 1922 that Hammy would spend the rest of his life at Ridley. Such a master could not have arrived at a more opportune or valuable time.

Mr. Cockburn, who had arrived in 1921, was another master who loved teaching for teaching's sake. He was destined to give such fine leadership to the boys who liked his kindness, honesty and dependability, and to interest himself in so many of their activities (including the editorship of *Acta* for

many years) that he made a deep impression on the School for the next forty years and more. A graduate of St. John's College, Oxford, with long war-service as an artilleryman, his steadying influence was of great value through these uncertain years and for long afterwards. Almost immediately, he became the Cadets' range officer and shooting instructor which he still was in 1959. He made marksmanship a permanent and valuable Ridley feature.

Still another new master in 1922 to win the respect of the boys at once was the Rev. W. F. Wallace who taught English and history in the Upper School; he was also appointed chaplain and remained at Ridley until 1929. So did Miss C. H. Hague, school nurse for the Upper School who also came in 1922, replacing Mrs. Lloyd. Mrs. E. M. Roper was another to join in 1922 as matron of Upper School, remaining until 1926. In 1922 also, Dr. W. J. Chapman was appointed school doctor, a post he would hold for twenty-eight years.

Rounding out the new strength and permanence now given to the staff, which would carry Ridley safely through the Roaring Twenties, was Mr. S. G. Bett, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M. (later Mus.Doc.), organist and choirmaster who made sure that Ridley would remain "a singing school". In doing so he became almost indelibly identified personally with Ridley. All Ridleians were soon intensely proud of the boy choir he trained in the Lower School, and had ready in time for the opening of the Memorial Chapel. The boys' choir later grew to imposing proportions, to become an institution of the School in which there was great pride.

These fine, scholarly and proficient masters joined a small but solid staff-core of masters who already were, or were rapidly becoming, an integral part of the permanent Ridley: Ernie Powell, a fixture since 1900; G. M. Brock and C. E. H. Thomas who had been on active service and had returned; J. C. Ashburner who had joined in 1916; Mr. M. Brockwell, a ten-year veteran and, of course, white-haired Colonel Thairs, an original of '89.

Such was the splendid group of masters, old and new, which Ridley possessed to rise to the challenge of the Roaring Twenties. At all Ridley periods it was a normal – and an accepted – part of a master's responsibilities to play the role of counsellor and friend to his boys. Ability to gain their confidence, and then to apply sympathetic understanding and good judgment were always essential qualities in a master. But never before had a close relationship, one of trust and confidence, between master and student been so important. Each master now had to be a wise, practical teen-ager's psychologist, not just for a temporary emergency but over a period of years. And the need was on all school levels. Mr. Griffith was constantly confronted with boys who had an urge to emulate "wild youth", or just to rebel. A firm hand in control was imperative, and they needed help, too. Mr. Williams felt, in turn, that he had far too many disturbed and confused youngsters populating the Lower School. They also needed help.

Ridley's boys were fortunate; guidance and understanding were there for them, and the essential discipline, too. The older boys were particularly fortunate that Ridley had a headmaster with the discernment, firmness and judgment of Harry Griffith.

The boys themselves were not always grateful, until they were adults, for the quiet guidance and kindly, steadying counsel which the masters of Ridley tried to give them. At least partially resulting from the effect on teen-age boys of these careless and heedless years, an unusually large number were just now on Ridley's roll because their parents felt they needed the discipline and control of an independent school. Perhaps they had been obstreperous in their public or high school, were at war with their teachers, at cross-purposes with society and their families and getting nowhere with their education. Often bright, even brilliant if confused boys, to them Ridley at first seemed like a place of detention, almost a reform institution; they felt forcibly confined and were naturally rebellious and bitter. To such boys a wise member of the school staff was a godsend, and in nearly all instances the needed patience and wisdom were found.

The extent of the disturbed mental attitude of boys who entered Ridley unwillingly is not difficult to see. Because adults were disillusioned with the system of their society, skeptical of the old forms of faith, and groping blindly for new values, the intelligent teen-aged boy did indeed feel like a member of a lost generation. The term was abused but it was not entirely a misnomer. The boy was living through youth's most difficult years in any event, his personal time of questioning and search, and that his own adult world often seemed uncertain about what was right or wrong, wise or unwise, left him lost and bewildered. He had neither a rudder to steer by nor an anchor to which to cling. He was rebellious in sheer frustration, though often not articulate enough to say why.

There was many a boy at Ridley who was caught in this and who found his steadying anchor in the quiet advice of a master. Years later they looked back and frankly spoke of their great debt to Ridley because a kindly, patient and wise member of the staff had put them straight.

They did not find this wisdom and strength in all masters of the 1920s; there were two or three single-termers who did not understand boys, who could not keep control and whose classes were often sheer bedlam. But the majority of the men on Ridley's staff – all of those who served long – were dedicated to the guidance of boys at any hour, and in any way, as well as to teach them in class.

"Ernie Powell was one," recalled an Old Boy. "You could see him and talk to him at any time. His door was literally always open. You could walk in and talk – with your feet on his desk if you liked."

There were others whose understanding and sympathy could be felt by

troubled boys. "You could talk things out with Hammy Hamilton, though he was new at the School, and Mr. Ashburner, too. Both had a sense of humour and were naturally friendly. Hammy had an explosive temper but great kindness and a lot of commonsense. Mr. Ashburner was a bit reserved, but he had patience and understanding. Besides, you felt his advice was sincere."

In these difficult years, almost every staff member was a counsellor. "The one who straightened out my thinking was Mr. Thomas," said a boy of the Twenties nearly forty years later. The quiet, thoughtful, pipe-smoking Mr. Thomas (who was to be killed in a motor-car crash in 1938) seemed to wield a valuable influence on many boys throughout all these upheaved years and to do it so unobtrusively much of it was unsuspected.

The person who played the role of counsellor and friend most quietly of all was Cap Iggulden. To many Old Boys their memory of him is only that of a martinet – the disciplinarian who carried out punishment. He was the drill-master who conducted the endless running around the gym by defaulters. But to a fortunate few he was guide and friend, a man a boy could turn to when in a jam.

"He had a heart as big as a bucket," recalled one of these who came to know the Cap, to trust him and appreciate him. "I know of a score of kindly things he did for boys which were far beyond his duties and responsibilities. He was a good man."

On Prize Days when scholastic progress was revealed, there was often great reward. A boy who had been a surly, rebellious malcontent in his first days at Ridley, would disclose by his marks that all was well with him. It made teaching the most satisfying of all professions.

One boy who was so discouraged by his failure to obtain passing marks despite serious study was persuaded not to drop out in despair and "to go and dig ditches for a living", by a new twist to the old maxim about try, try, again. Ridley's masters were probably as addicted to well-used platitudes about sticking-to-it and aiming high and looking to the stars as any group of teachers, but this disheartened boy was adjured to make his failures stepping stones to success. "Make failure your teacher. You can be beaten by failure or you can learn from it. Make your mistakes, then study them. Remember, success is at the far side of failure." Though the boy, now the successful head of his own thriving business, suspected he would never be much of a scholar, he kept plugging and finally made his matric. He never forgot the man – Mr. Cockburn – who took the time and was interested enough in him to bolster his crestfallen ego by a talk in the rifle range one evening.

The real encouragement had come from the boy's realization that Ridley's masters were not solely interested in the brilliant and successful. He had felt beaten and hopeless, was trying to face up to his limitations and was deeply grateful for the gentle advice. Mr. Cockburn who had arrived in 1921 – this

occurred in 1924 – had already caught that part of Ridley's philosophy which includes teaching boys things not in the academic syllabus. Such things as courage, compassion, manners and tolerance. Such things as the spirit which accepts and enjoys rivalry and competition, without engendering a ruthless ambition.

There are cynical critics who have said that Ridley's failure to hold out financial success to a boy as a lure to induce him to apply himself was doing him a disservice and that idealism was carried too far. Teachers are as respectful toward wealth as anyone else even when they are sincerely, or only pretending to be, scornful of the importance of money for money's sake, but Ridley's masters certainly did not laud wealth as the great desirable state. Dr. Miller used to call richness the ability to use your mind and to live in the serenity of self-respect. The exuberant Mel Brock who had arrived at Ridley in 1914 only to leave for the Army and later coaching at the University of Western Ontario and was now back, was not considered a philosopher but he told one of his basketballers of 1923 that as far as he was concerned to be rich only meant the ability to have the time to do what you wanted to do. "I guess Dr. Miller and Mel were both saying the same thing," said the basketballer (when he was 52).

The evidence of Ridley's solidarity was, of course, seen in the way both the scholastic and athletic records were maintained. More and more seniors moved on to the universities each year, and new triumphs and records continued to be won on the playing field.

There was also credit owing for much of that steadiness to the quality, influence and example of the prefects. They had abruptly taken on a new importance and much depended on their judgment. They changed frequently, of course, as the Crazy Decade wore along, but the Ridley tradition of always possessing fine replacements held firm. Those of the 1921-2 period were G. F. Biggar, T. W. Bright, H. G. H. Hansard, R. W. S. Johnston, L. W. Law, C. T. Pearson, S. H. Robinson and E. A. Smith, a strong medley of top athletes and scholars, all of them respected by the boys for their personal integrity.

ORATORY AND LITERATURE

A NEW DEPARTURE of intense interest for Third Formers was the organization of a Third Form parliament; it caused great excitement in Third and dominated the gossip of the boys in dorm and dining room for days. It was not new for Ridley because the School had staged many mock parliaments, beginning with some wild "elections" back in the Nineties. But it was new for the Third Form; it had always been the lordly seniors who played politicians. The new Ridley parliament was staged during the Friday speak-

ing periods through a considerable succession of them over several years. It was properly set up with a formal Constitution: "To encourage literary taste, to develop the art of public speaking and training in the conduct of public business." The House of Commons had a premier, opposing parties and a speaker.

One early political manœuvre was to make it appear that Little Big Four hockey was a unanimous Ridley desire. The "Government" for 1922 was elected on the second Friday of the term (without the theft of voters' lists and the ballot-box stuffing which had marked elections in the Nineties). The Democrats and Unionists had presented their platforms to an open meeting prior to an orderly vote which the Democrats under Premier Bob Rogers won by 26-8. They at once faced charges of malpractice and of being in league with the Ku Klux Klan, but successfully squelched the Opposition, led by G. Belton, which was strong of voice if weak in numbers. Two acrid and noisy debates are recalled, one on corporal punishment and the other on the Ontario temperance situation. The Bill before the Government for a Little Big Four hockey league was not debated; the hockey lobbyists had been so busy they had contrived to have party lines set aside: the whole house voted for it.

At the end of the second year Premier Rogers' Democrats were still flourishing. His cabinet was comprised of: Minister of Justice A. V. Malone; Minister of Education S. T. Seeley; Minister of Finance K. J. Ridgeway and Minister of Local Affairs G. Eastwood. A. W. Tucker was Secretary of the House; *i.e.*, he was Speaker of the often unruly Ridley Parliament, expected to keep order in the heat of political attack and counterattack. The Third Form boys were enthused with their parliament even if no Laurier or Macdonald was immediately discernible. They liked the oral cross-fire, the repartee, which was as controlled and quite as dignified as some Canadian legislative sessions during hot debates.

The Parliament was an outgrowth of or an auxiliary to the long-established Ridley policy to seek seriously to have all graduates reasonably practised in public speaking. The Sixth Formers always had been particularly active. The Upper Sixth were so enthused that some of them were regular guests of the Canadian Club, St. Catharines. It gave them an opportunity to hear excellent and often distinguished speakers who never knew how closely – and critically – the mannerisms, devices to hold an audience and methods of a skilled orator generally, were examined by the youthful observers from Ridley. The junior boys were now students of elocution, too, eager to hear the embryo orators of the Sixth. To encourage such interest all classes were suspended on two Friday afternoons in succession to allow the entire School to hear both the preliminaries and finals of the Seniors' Speaking Contest.

Dr. Merritt and Mr. Courtney Kingstone still gave the two principal prizes

(a gold locket and gold cuff links, engraved with the Ridley crest), and both were present in 1922. Dr. Merritt no longer gave evening instruction in public speaking, but he remained keenly interested. He declared there had been a notable increase in the proportion of Ridley boys who could speak in public with ease and lucidity, because the School was a tough audience, but a good training ground. The jeers for a time-worn cliché were highly effective. Similarly, fear of derision was a check-rein on a boy inclined to be overly dramatic. The pattern of the contests kept changing a little, but generally each boy spoke once on a subject of his own choosing and a second time on a subject drawn by lot, to call on his ability to speak extemporaneously. Inglis was declared winner in 1922 after speaking on *Golf* and delivering a fine impromptu second speech. Robinson, who had chosen to speak on *The Washington Conference*, won second place over Biggar I, Peixotto and Smith ma, all of whom were tied for third. In 1923 Peixotto won the extempore prize with J. K. D. Sims ma winning Mr. Kingstone's award for a prepared speech, *The Disarmament Conference*. The following year, with Mr. Ernie Powell presiding, C. G. M. Guthrie ("Some day we shall see M.P. after his name") and R. A. DeWitt were winners, speaking on *Louis Joseph Papineau* and *Christopher Columbus*.

The contest was not held in 1924, and in the following year a trio were tempted to try a little buffoonery; E. R. Davey, G. M. Gray and A. H. V. Woolrich swore they would speak on *Goose Eggs, Sparrows and Pigtails*. They were warned so sternly that their type of humour would not be countenanced that they lost their nerve and withdrew. Masters ma placed first with a fine account of the *2nd Battle of Ypres*. F. M. O'Flynn won the second prize.

There is nothing on record to support our assumption that Ridley's staff consciously organized increased attention to the subject-matter of the speaking, essay and reading contests in order to combat the demoralizing influences of the Roaring Twenties, but it is probably true. Certainly, the formation of a Reading Club in 1922 was inspired by the desire to inculcate greater appreciation of good literature as a counter to the flood of literary trash pouring off the presses of the United States and Canada. Cheap magazines and trivial novels were descending like an avalanche on the reading public. They seemed to follow the newspaper trend, which was more and more toward sensation, crime, sex and the more grotesque facets of the times.

"We hope for great things from the new Reading Club and, if it succeeds, it can have a lasting influence on the boys and on the School," said *Acta*.

The type of material which was so easily available handicapped Ridley in inducing the reading habit – "The mind of a good reader is always growing; life is stimulated, your horizons are broadened. The non-reader narrows himself." Selectivity had to be urged – "Try history, philosophy, essays, drama,

the great fiction, all of it food for the mind." Mr. Griffith often pointed out that poor readers were a large proportion of matric failures.

It was to encourage the boys of Ridley to become infected with a love for great literature, and in understanding of its value on malleable minds, that Dr. Miller had founded his reading contest many years before. As *Principal Emeritus* he continued to provide the annual award for a competition traditionally held on the last night of the summer term, after preliminary trials had left a group of finalists. In 1922 eleven finalists were all so close in dramatic presentation, enunciation, intonation and fluency while reading from Macaulay's *Essays* and Wordsworth's *Excursion* that the three judges – Mr. Brock, Mr. Comber and Mr. Doorly – had a problem on their hands. Smith was finally awarded Dr. Miller's prize but by a narrow margin over Botterell and Weatherston.

The reading contest sometimes created widespread student interest. In 1924 Gibson Pirie won the award signifying the best reader in the School, but *Acta's* subscribers were startled by tart published criticism from one of the judges about careless planning of the contest. The next year, organization was near-perfect, but this time the judges were vulnerable, and the target of partisan protests because they compromised in their decision: Glassco and Adams I finished in a dead-heat as a dual final choice, but Glassco had already won the Fourth Form reading prize, so Adams I was given the award of the *Principal Emeritus*.

Ridley's library had gradually incorporated more and more volumes of the classics, and there was now enough fine literature available to help a boy form a sound philosophy of his own by learning how to think deeply while studying and assessing the thoughts and concepts of the great minds. The constant attention by Ridley to its literary facilities was, of course, primarily to help students develop a thirst for knowledge and also a taste for research. As Mr. Griffith frequently told his seniors: "When you reach university you are not going to find memorized knowledge and information all set up for you in a card-file. You must learn how and where to find knowledge, and you should now be discovering how to be selective in your exploration and search for it." He always contended that a questioning, curious student was more important than the answering master and that nothing should ever be done to check a persistently questioning boy. ("Frivolous questions in the impertinent or impudent category is another thing, of course.")

Despite the steady expansion of Ridley's library the masters who were closing ranks to lift the general standard of reading as a means to counteract the outflow of literary trash were not satisfied. They made suggestions to the staff of *Acta*, and for the first time the general appeal for the donation of books specifically named the authors and titles which would be gratefully received. The library had been maintained solely by gifts, but never before

had an appeal been so pointed. *Acta* asked for a sort of literary omelette, mixing the essayists and philosophers with the popular and more ephemeral writers whose works are now as dead as the events they recorded. Some of the authors suggested as very acceptable by Ridley's library were Balzac, Boswell, Brontë, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Thomas Carlisle, Ralph Connor, Conrad, Cervantes, Darwin, Dumas, Gibbon, Zane Grey, Hugo, Kingsley, Macaulay, George Barr McCutcheon, Baroness Orczy, Gene Stratton Porter, Plutarch, Southey, Livingston, Booth Tarkington and H. G. Wells. The poets suggested formed another literary mixture – Tennyson, Wordsworth, Browning, Milton, Chaucer, Rupert Brooke, John Masefield, Alan Seager, Canada's Robert Service and even America's Bret Harte.

A literary intellectual might frown a bit or be bitingly derisive that some of it should be called worthwhile prose and poetry, but most of the suggested authors and poets would mean solid enough reading fare for boys, including thoughtful works for the senior scholars. Interest in good literature was fostered even in the Lower School, with the boys urged to read things which were more philosophical than might be thought beneficial for their years. There was a ban on the luridly illustrated boys' magazines and comic books on sale on the news-stands, most of them American. Mr. Williams often spoke wistfully of the wholesomeness of the *Boys Own Paper* and *Chums* which his boys had read twenty years before.

"What is poetry?" asked the literary commentator for the Lower School, no doubt inspired by the presence of a master, Mr. Robert Finch, noted for his poetry. "The smallest boy in the Lower School aged nine, ten or eleven may not be able to answer the question," he answered himself, "but Mr. Finch has been encouraging them to express themselves rhythmically. The following samples have certainly some of the elements of poetry."

THE LITTLE RIVER

*As I was going for a summer drive
We passed a little stream,
And we listened, and it seemed to say,
"Tripple . . . tripple . . . tripple . . . tripple,"
Up and down
Through the Town.*

— Ritter

THE BIG FALLS

*It's nice to hear the roaring
Of the falls that have been pouring;
That over mighty rocks for years
Has been falling . . . falling . . . falling.*

— Hoyles

The pre-war awards by the I.O.D.E. for essays by the seniors had been discontinued, but on Prize Day there were always the *Acta* composition and short-story prizes. *Acta* itself was still an excellent testing ground for budding authors, even if space for schoolboy offerings seemed to be reduced by the regular sections which now appeared for each house. Dr. Miller's original plan to develop Ridley after the English public school house system was working out; the different houses of Ridley were steadily creating their own traditions and *esprit de corps* which in turn helped the morale of the School as a whole. The sense of a separate identity, provided now by individual house reports in *Acta*, helped the whole thing along. Inter-house rivalry was already high in their intramural sport; and the house teams were another incubator for the great school teams. Unfortunately, the house leagues were not as active as they might have been.

Sport was, of course, a natural and powerful antidote to the general irresponsibility of the Roaring Twenties, especially in a school such as Ridley where good sportmanship in defeat or victory was the ruling code. This was not just true on the cricket field, where all the fine traditions of the game were meticulously kept alive, for the same spirit permeated the hard-playing football and hockey teams. The boys won fairly, or not at all – and took pride in it, the important thing. The fostering of such an attitude was a strong psychological buffer against outside influence. The wisdom of making sport important at Ridley was confirmed over and over during the 1920s in the impulses and values it bred. In the face of difficult conditions, sport could be seen even by former skeptics about the extent of concentration on games, as one of the most valuable attributes Ridley possessed to build a boy's character.

Each Sports Day of the postwar period confirmed our earlier observations that the track-and-field sports had lost much of the importance they had known at Ridley and throughout Canada before the war. Yet it was also obvious they would never deteriorate so seriously at Ridley that Sports Day would not remain one of the School's great annual features. Starting with 1922 so many events were scheduled that they had to hold a "Sports Week" in order to run off some of the jumps and longer races. This became the Ridley track-and-field pattern by necessity, or the programmes could not have finished before dark. Strachan Bongard was a great senior champion in 1922.

In both 1923 and 1924 bad weather marred Games' Day; in 1923, "the track was something awful"; it was also heavy and slow in 1924. The sun came out to save the tea party in 1923, at which Mrs. Griffith presided after she had presented the prizes, but only a few hardy Old Boys had been on hand to see Jack Sanderson, a star basketball player, take the quarter, half-mile and mile in the mud and also the high jump, to win the Senior Championship. It went to A. J. Stringer in 1924. Fine weather, a fast track and firm ground for the jumpers favoured Ridley's athletes at last in 1925, with Neeve a great champion.

THE TRACK-AND-FIELD CHAMPIONS: 1922-5

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Lower School</i>
	<i>Championship</i>	<i>Championship</i>	<i>Championship</i>	<i>Championship</i>
1922	S. Bongard	A. R. DeWitt	E. G. Evans	I. R. Hislop
1923	J. Sanderson	J. B. Neeve	J. B. Brown	F. W. Smith I
1924	A. J. Stringer	J. B. Brown	C. F. Robinson	W. M. Ritter
				J. C. Harvey }
1925	J. B. Neeve	Duncan Clark	J. H. Stewart	H. J. Bradley }

Unexpectedly, Sports Day officials found stop watches and tapes for the period following 1922. They had been missing for fifteen years, ever since 1907. The times and distances achieved in the good-weather years (1922 and 1925) make an interesting comparison to the earlier records.

	<i>Recent Records</i>		<i>Old Records</i>	
100 yards	1925	.10 ⁸ / ₁₀ (Grant and Clark)	1898	.10 ⁴ / ₁₀ (Gander)
220 yards	1925	.23 ⁶ / ₁₀ (Neeve and Lind)	1902	.24 ⁴ / ₁₀ (Greenhill)
440 yards	1922	.59 (Robinson)	1905	.55 (Maxwell)
880 yards	1922	2.19 (Docherty)	1906	2.18 (Burland)
Mile	1922	5.10 (Docherty)	1906	5.7 (Burland)
High Jump	1922	5'2" (Sanderson)	1899	5'2" (Wade)
Broad Jump	1922	19'2" (De Witt)	1900	20'3" (Stark)
Hurdles (110)	1925	.18 ⁴ / ₁₀ (Neeve)	1898	.19 ¹ / ₅ (Wade)

New school standards had thus been set for the 220-yard run and also for the 110 hurdles, with the 1899 mark equalled for the high jump. Some new marks would be set in 1929, and shortly all the above records would fall.

Ridley had a new flagpole of unique construction for Games Day of 1925. As its Union Jack whipped and snapped in the wind, few knew it was actually on a ship's mast, correctly rigged, through the thoughtfulness of the President of Ridley. It had just replaced the former pole, taken down in 1921 when the builders began on the Memorial Chapel. Mr. Gooderham had the pole made to symbolize his other great interest, yachting. Half-way up the pole cross-pieces represented the yardarms of a sailing vessel, and each of its sections was an authentic part of the original mast of some famous Canadian yacht. There was a length from the mast of the *Zelma*, a Royal Canadian Yacht Club boat, built by Fife & Son of Fairlee, Scotland and raced by Norman Dick. The topmast of the pole came from the *Chinook*, another Fife yacht, sailed by Stewart Malloch. A third section – the ball at the top through which the halyards ran – came from the old *Oriole II*, one of the famous Gooderham line of this name. She had been sailed by Mr. Gooderham's father when he was commodore of the R.C.Y.C. at Toronto. (In 1887, the *Oriole II* had defeated the *Countess of Dufferin* and *Idler* at Chicago; she was then broken up in 1905.) The boys detailed for each morning's flag-raising only enjoyed the duty twice; on the third occasion they said harsh things about the performance, the

flag-pole and all routine. Despite this, it became a task of honour, carried out for years by boys of Gooderham House. Today, a military ceremony marks the raising and lowering of the flag on its pole beside the Headmaster's House each morning and evening. It is a duty of a cadet detachment, and includes *Reveille* and *Retreat* by a bugler (when a cadet-bugler has the skill, that is).

THE GREAT CRICKET SPIRIT (1922-5)

THE mighty Sandy Somerville had gone, but the cricket strength which ran through Ridley from the Sixth Form down to the lowly, but eager aspirants for the Lower School teams, could take the loss of such a great player in stride and still win the Little Big Four Cricket Championship. The familiar success of the second and third teams, the Dean's House team of third-formers, the under-16 team, and of course the enthusiastic elevens of the Lower School, was continued through 1922 to 1925 to say that the great depth in Ridley cricket strength was still secure.

The whole school was imbued with the spirit of cricket as it had been between 1913 and 1917 – the five years of consecutive championships. There was good reason. New boys were seldom cricketers but on arrival were impressed when proudly told by a one-year veteran of the Lower School that in the past ten years (1913-22 inclusive) the mighty Ridley elevens had won the Little Big Four Cricket Championship eight times and tied for it once, losing only once (to T.C.S. in 1918). The young cricket historians would add that in this decade the First XI had played a total of thirty matches against Upper Canada, Trinity College School and St. Andrew's, and *had won all but four of them!* And one of those was a drawn game.

With such a brilliant record it was natural that the cricket spirit which flooded the whole school would gain many recruits among each crop of new boys. It was going to be sustained for many seasons because Ridley was now coming into what was probably her greatest cricket era, the day of the two Bells, of Phil Seagram and Ralph Ripley, with Nipper Cliff, Soapy Soanes and Warren Snyder the big bats before them.

Behind this firm establishment of Ridley as a cricket school were years of striving and many influences which go back to the time when the masters played on the first teams. In the Nineties Mr. Griffith had been a fine batsman as a student, but the deep interest in cricket by Dr. Miller and Mr. Williams, and their participation in Ridley's uncertain first years, had much to do with the birth and early establishment of Ridley's cricket tradition. Founded in Ridley's first year of existence, and consolidated in 1911 when Ridley at last became a great cricket school, it was still building.

Ridley's cricketers proved the value of strength-in-depth in 1922. The first

team under T. W. Bright ma went on to its familiar triumph of a Little Big Four Championship, and the cricket captain made a little history himself: he scored 83 against Upper Canada, the second highest score to date by a Ridleian in a school match. Bright was given valiant support by G. J. Cliff who scored a spectacular 106 not out in a preliminary match against Hamilton District.

Cliff's century was Ridley's fifth. They were still rare feats, even if Somerville had scored two centuries the year before – the third and fourth.

In their eleven matches the School team won 10, had one game drawn and lost a lone match to North Toronto Cricket Club, a new strong team, that defeated them 82-69. Their all-important inter-school scores were:

Against U.C.C., won 161 for 9 to 94

Against St. Andrew's, won 118-39

Against T.C.S., won 113-89

The cricket colours of 1922 were: T. W. Bright ma, captain; J. M. Bright mi; G. J. Cliff (high batting average, 44.4); G. F. Biggar; R. W. S. Johnston; H. S. Lennox; N. M. Cooper; J. A. Millidge (best bowling average, 6.6); G. F. Osler; H. B. Soanes; J. S. Weatherston.

If any of their rival schools had any doubt of Ridley's dominance in 1922 it was dispelled in a unique match during Ridley's post-season cricket tour. Mr. Norman Seagram assembled an all-star team comprised of players from St. Andrew's, Upper Canada and T.C.S., and challenged Ridley. The School won decisively 196-69, the strength of their batting revealed in a unique way: all but three Ridley boys scored in double figures, yet the top score was only 41 runs.

In 1923, with George Cliff the cricket captain, Ridley lost her first cricket match in sixteen years to St. Andrew's but still tied for the championship because St. Andrew's also lost a match, to Upper Canada. Once more Ridley won 10 of their 11 matches, but that unexpected loss to St. Andrew's (149-77) in their opening match of the season wrecked hopes for anything but a tie for the championship at the very outset. It was the first time St. Andrew's had defeated Ridley at cricket since 1907, so it was a shock. ("There is very little to be said about the Ridley innings. Six batsmen were caught out and only two batsmen scored more than 10.") It was fortunate that Millidge and Osler had put on 32 runs between them for a fifth wicket or the shock would have been even greater. But they then downed U.C.C., 109-71 and overwhelmed T.C.S. by 246-83. Six first-year men were on this 1923 team.

In 1924 a long, wet spring held cricket back throughout Ontario, and a loss to Upper Canada cost Ridley the championship. The First XI played 12 matches, winning 6, losing 3 and drawing 3, a record which was considered poor, but it caused no apprehension among the Old Boys. When they looked down through the forms, they found comfort in noting that the Lower School

eleven went through their season without a defeat and that the new Gooderham House team also had promising players on the way up. Millidge was captain in 1924; H. B. Soanes held the high batting average with 36.8, but the next best was E. G. F. Arnott, with only 15.6. Soanes' average went up through a splendid 108 not out against St. George's of Buffalo. E. R. Grobba, a first-year colour man, had the best bowling average, a fine 5.89. Millidge, Soanes and Grobba had kept fit all winter with the hockey team.

In 1925 another mediocre cricket year seemed to be due because, in the first week of practice, the bowling looked weak, the batting terrible and the fielding poor. Then something happened; perhaps it was the cricket spirit of Ridley rising in exhortation or at least inserting great inspiration. The first team worked furiously, and in the end gave Ridley one of the strongest elevens the School had known. A highlight was another century against St. George's of Buffalo, this time by Murray Snyder, their great hockey goalkeeper who made 116.

H. B. Soanes' century in 1924 and Snyder's in 1925 were Ridley's sixth and seventh.

The significance in the recent frequency of Ridley centuries was the reflection of the rapid improvement in Canadian cricket. The game was now greatly advanced, and not just at Ridley.

Ridley's first team in 1925, which had five players wearing cricket colours for the first time, lost only once, to Winnipeg's St. George's Cricket Club who visited Ridley from June 15 to 19 and defeated their hosts by a single run in a great match. This was a return courtesy by Ridley for the hospitality extended by the Winnipeg Club during Ridley's western cricket tour in 1924.

Here is the record of Ridley's all-important inter-school matches in 1925:

Against St. Andrew's, won 133-59
 (133 and 92 for 3 to 59)
 Against Upper Canada, won 203-198
 (124 and 79 for 2 to 36 and 162)
 Against T.C.S., won 120-106

The Upper Canada game on Ridley's fine campus was enthusiastically characterized as the most interesting and exciting match ever played by Ridley in an LBF test on their home pitch. (Both the veterans on the staff and many excited Old Boys said so.) That 203-198 tally was certainly one of the high scoring matches in Canadian school cricket and without doubt a record to date in the cricket of the preparatory schools. Play was actually in progress for 7½ hours, with a total of 401 runs scored, *more than 53 per hour*. The average per wicket was nearly 13 runs.

The first innings had ended with the score 124 to 36 in Ridley's favour and an easy victory seemed assured. Davey had been Ridley's best bowler; he

obtained 6 wickets for 7 runs, a squelcher for U.C.C. But Upper Canada disclosed its real batting strength in the second innings; they scored 162 which put the challenge up to Ridley to score 74 runs in 80 minutes.

He did it in spectacular fashion, making the needed 74 runs for a loss of only 2 wickets.

The members of the truly great 1925 team to be presented with a small silver cricket bat by Mr. T. R. Merritt (who had been on the 1911 and 1913 championship teams) were: H. B. Soanes, captain; M. H. Snyder (high batsman, 27.7); E. R. Grobba (best bowling average, 7.35); S. B. McCormack (winner of fielding prize); R. H. Innes; W. E. N. Bell; E. R. Davey; S. R. Granger; W. N. Tucker; J. M. McAvity and J. Hearn.

Knowing that spectacular batsmen – probably Ridley's greatest – and mighty teams were still to appear on the Ridley scene, it seems like travesty to interject that the glorious fifteen years of cricket (1911-1925 inclusive) just completed was the finest and most sustained period of cricket success in Ridley's first seventy years. There were two stretches of three consecutive Little Big Four cricket championships to come, but not again would Ridley win ten championships outright, with two additional ties, in fifteen years. They had only missed in three seasons, 1912, 1918 and 1924.

This should not spoil anticipation of the great feats and mighty cricketers now to come. It can be noted with pride for there was now no doubt but that cricket had done its work, had justified itself not only as a great school sport but also as an influence on the entire school. The cricket way was now Ridley's way without question. The traditional cricket spirit of meticulous fair play, of modesty in victory and neither bitterness nor complaint in defeat was so deeply impregnated it was a permanent part of Ridleian philosophy.

That this should be so and could be so clearly seen at the end of 1925, with the mad tempo of the Roaring Twenties reaching a peak, is one of the inspiring things which keep recurring with surprising frequency in the Ridley story.

The Memorial Chapel

"She had her own martyrs to mourn and honour. The beautiful Memorial Chapel was a physical sealing for all to see of Ridley's ideals and principles and traditions, for it honoured the memory of Ridley's boys who had died as men in the spirit of service – the spirit of Ridley."

ONE OF THE most effective of all Ridley's influences on her boys in quietly combating the assault of the Roaring Twenties on the old verities of their fathers was the Cadet Corps. Like the spirit of cricket, it was a bulwark facing the challenge to the old principles of decency by which the majority of Canadians had traditionally lived. There was justification for the derision of American youth for politicians and the courts because of the instances of police and political corruption which multiplied throughout the 1920s. Even in Canada, where the courts remained largely untarnished, respect for governments and the administration of justice was undermined by the general defiance of law and order. The unpopular liquor legislation which prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages bears much blame.

Coupled with this weakened respect for law and the courts was a more disturbing reaction, a parallel deterioration in respect for citizenship; loud in the heedless era was scorn by brash youth for the old-fashioned belief that an obligation went with the privileges and personal freedoms of citizenship. The young iconoclasts declared nothing was owed to the nation by the individual. But no matter how this intensified, there would be little deterioration at Ridley in sense of honour, or in proud awareness of the responsibilities of Canadian citizenship, while the fine institution of the Cadet Corps existed. It was much more than just an effective medium of boy-control and discipline; its great value was in the deep-seated regard by the boys for what it represented.

The wonderful truth was that *esprit de corps* was probably never higher among Ridley's cadets than it was during the Roaring Twenties. On and off parade they exuded a staunch collective pride. They were personifying Rid-

ley's philosophy and attitude; the atmosphere and spirit of their School had become theirs.

To the Corps the annual Church Parade was already becoming only second in importance to Inspection Day, but whenever they were on public display the intent demeanour and alert smartness of the boys drew sometimes extravagant yet generally well-earned applause. *Acta* said in 1922:

"For some years the work of the Ridley Cadet Corps has been so good that each year one hesitates to use the terms of unstinted praise that are the only terms that are right and just to use. Only the most critical and professional eye could have detected the slightest mistakes at the inspection."

The status of the Corps was now so high it was difficult to remember the unwillingness of many senior boys to join its ranks in 1907 and 1908. It will be remembered how that attitude virtually vanished in the next three and four years, with the value of the Corps then repeatedly increasing. It was already an integral part of school life, but during the war a movement had progressed to make cadet work as permanent a feature of Ridley as her academic programme. It was being done quite simply and directly, and not at all subtly. An Upper School boy was no longer asked to volunteer to become a cadet, he was expected to do so. By the 1921-2 period the idea had taken hold so strongly that it was obvious the day of a volunteer corps was past and that this would be permanent. Actual compulsion was not applied: the rather overwhelming force of expectation worked just as well. Few Upper School boys could withstand it; they found themselves cadets, sometimes to their surprise.

There was a Conchie Class for awhile, Conchie being a term as familiar during World War I as Zombie became in World War II. From Conscientious Objector, a Ridley Conchie was a boy who declined to wear a uniform, but he was apt to change his decision when he discovered he had to attend a Conchie Class in a stuffy study room, while the cadets were training in the open air. The Conchies sometimes numbered from three to six boys at the start of a term, but the class was generally quickly dissolved as it meant study even on a Saturday morning, while the cadets were off on a manoeuvre or doing something else interesting. A boy's objections seemed to weaken rapidly. Capt. R. S. Cockburn, a war veteran, took the Conchie Class, so it can be safely assumed nothing was done to prevent its complete evaporation very soon after the start of each new term.

"Ridley's Cadet Corps was the most compulsory volunteer organization I ever enjoyed," chuckled an Old Boy of a later era.

In 1923 Colonel Thairs was ill and feeling his years, and by the turn into 1924 the Cadet Corps had been taken over completely by Capt. Iggulden – "A man who has won his soldier's ribbons nobly on more than one Imperial

front, and proven himself a soldier on more than one of her hardest fields." The change did not cause a single mis-step in the march of the Corps from year to year. This spelled both efficiency and morale. In the day of hoopla and whoopee, the Corps must have had the personal enthusiasm of the cadets themselves behind it or high morale could not have been maintained over so many years. It was not short of remarkable for still another reason. It was in defiance of lack of encouragement from an almost non-existent defence policy by the Canadian Government. Reduced defence appropriations would soon bring the permanent force to such a state that it would be little more than a paper establishment, and the militia units would soon have to rely on the loyalty of their members to remain in existence. The General Staff was no more than a bare nucleus. The great defence organization Canada had built up during the Great War which was represented so proudly by the fighting record of the great Canadian Corps had all but vanished through government policy and the public heedlessness which allowed it, even approved of it. The cadet corps of the public and high schools would eventually be wiped out.

In defiance of this the spirit of Ridley's Cadet Corps remained proud and strong.

There was always special admiration for the smartness of the small boys of the Lower School marching in blazers and white ducks as the Junior Cadet Corps which had become the pride of Mr. Brockwell, and also for the Bugle Band which was still virtually self-trained. The Corps' fine exhibitions of physical drill which had become a highlight of each Inspection Day was the result of careful training by Capt. Iggulden. The Cadet Captain of 1922 was Rod (R. W. S.) Johnston.

Mr. A. W. Taylor still provided the coveted prize for the Cadet Corps' section drill competition which was won on Inspection Day of 1922 (June 18) by Sergeant Cooper's Section No. 2. Sergeant Robinson's Section was next in proficiency, winning Mrs. W. H. Merritt's annual prize. Cadet Charlie Sadleir won the shooting prize in this year, scoring a possible with the .22 calibre Ross target rifle on the indoor range. R. P. Greene was top marksman in 1923 when General Panet, G.O.C., Military District No. 2, did not send the usual inspecting officer but took the Cadets' salute himself. ("Moritz will go down in history as the drummer who broke in the head of the big drum on Inspection Day.") Sgt. Murray Mather's No. 3 Section won Mr. Taylor's award that year. In 1924 the winner was Sgt. C. G. Pirie's Section, and in 1925 it was Sgt. J. J. Brook, with Cadet E. Down the leading shot on the indoor range.

Sandwiched between their church parade and the ordeal of inspection was the Cadet Corps Dance, with guests received by Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Williams. How a boy arranges to attend was wonderfully told in *Acta Ridleiana* for Midsummer 1922, by W.F.G.B. who obviously had the story-telling gift. He would have shocked the anti-feminine diehards who once fought

stubbornly against ladies even entering the environs of Ridley except to work in the kitchen.

A CADET PREPARES FOR THE BALL

"At the first mention of the word dance it could be noticed by anyone that there was a sudden shortage of third formers in the afternoon (as they had to clean and polish the gym), and as the date drew nearer this shortage was such that third-formers had to be sought by appointment, otherwise they were nowhere to be found.

"But not so with the students of the fifth and sixth. They congregated in small groups and discussed whether they would go or not, all the time intending to go if their fair partners were agreed.

"After these important discussions were over the laudable fifth and the high and mighty sixth formers produced pens and paper, and after many unsuccessful attempts succeeded in wording an enticing invitation. While the next few days were dragging along everybody scanned their bank-rolls and rummaged around and brought to view silk shirts of varied hues, moth-eaten pennants, battered cameras, and attempted to dispose of them to increase their resources.

"When these methods failed, they appealed to 'the governor' for money for absolutely necessary cricket flannels. By the time the money arrived the answers to the invitations were also on hand. They strutted around if they had answers in the affirmative.

"Then, and not till then, the sixth formers decided to work at decorating the swimming tank and rafters, while captured third-formers were diligently applying wax to the floor and polishing it, sweeping out the basement, running all over the school for pennants, banners, rugs, electric bulbs and hundreds of other articles.

"At last, after many rumors of wrecks, floods, fires and stories that the train had never started from Toronto at all, someone yells 'Here it comes!' and with many groans the engine rolls into the station. Taxis are secured somehow and everybody goes downtown with 'her' to eat. The comfort of the meal is disturbed by the hotel's omitting to state the prices on the menu, consequently the important bill is a mystery until finally solved by the waiter. After the calling time has been fixed for 8 o'clock you walk back to the school to sit through tea thinking of the joys of the evening.

"A most meticulous toilet having been made you borrow someone else's best handkerchief and present yourself with another taxi to convey your prize to the ball.

"And then the dance! Never were the orchestra and punch so good, the floor so perfect. From the minute that you stepped on the floor you are under the enchantment from which you are rudely awakened in the third dance by a French heel cutting a hole in your borrowed socks.

"You sit on the stairs or on the benches doing the balancing stunt with a cup of coffee and sundry sandwiches.

"But all things good and bad must end, and finally you stand at the door of the gym with wilted collar, tousled hair and sore feet to take 'her' back to her hotel. You taxi one way, but by this time your roll shows signs of expiring completely under the strain, so you walk back, crawl into bed

and try to sleep the few remaining hours until the rising-bell summons you to school once more.

"After struggling through a morning three-quarters asleep, you visit the station to say a last farewell . . .

"It was by far the best dance that you had ever been to and you hope future functions will be half as successful."

There was little thought during these heedless Canadian years of another war and none at all that its foundation was already in the making in defeated but defiant Germany, but a proportion of Ridley's senior cadets due to try Form VIB examinations still chose those set by the Royal Military College. Principal Griffith frankly favoured the universities for Ridley graduates, but each year a few Ridleians went to the R.M.C. at Kingston. (*Postscript*: When Cadet Sergt. Ian S. Johnston (who would command the 48th Highlanders and then the 11th Canadian Brigade and 5th Division for a time in a world conflict to come) graduated to R.M.C. he found a memorial erected there to Ridley boys who had passed through R.M.C. to die in the Great War. The two Osler brothers (B. B. and G. F.), E. F. McCordick, W. D. Matthews and G. C. Trent had recently graduated, but N. L. C. Mather and G. S. Pirie were still there. The Ridleian to follow Ian Johnston to R.M.C. was J. M. McAvity.)

The officers and N.C.O.s of Ridley Cadet Corps for 1924 were: Cadet Capt. Murray Snyder and Cadet Lieutenants S. B. McCormack and J. L. Maw; Cadet Sergeants Ian S. Johnston, J. J. Brook, A. C. Boak, F. E. Beam, F. C. Tilley (band), S. O. Greening (signals) and F. C. Maier (Q.M.S.). We are naming them because they paraded with a Cadet Corps which, for the first time since Ridley's drill-squads of 1889, was without the presence even as an observer of that great mentor of boys and instructor of cadets, Colonel Thairs. The beloved, white-haired man who had become a Ridley legend in his lifetime had died.

THE first person appointed to the staff of Bishop Ridley College while the School was still in the course of organization in 1888 was George Thairs, the bursar, a post he had held until his death in 1924. At the Principal's suggestion, and because of his love of military life contracted in England where George Thairs was born in 1850, and then enjoyed in Canada as an officer of the 19th Lincolns, he had been drilling Ridley boys during the School's first term. Whether uniformless drill-squads or smart cadets, he had given the boys of Ridley – wholeheartedly and completely – his last thirty-five years.

The final occasion he was to see the Cadet Corps on parade was as they marched to St. Thomas's Church on June 1, 1923. He could not march with them; he was ill and weak but watched them proudly from the sidelines. When

he died on July 30, during the summer holidays, an extraordinary sense of loss was suddenly felt by Old Boys of all Ridley eras, and not the least by those whose deep affection dated from before the South African War. His gentle disposition; his kindness; his quiet hints of the thing to do or not to do; the way he would drop an "h"; the great pride he exuded when his drill-squads of the Nineties were finally recognized and officially cited as a Cadet Corps in the Militia List of 1907; his vast patience with awkward young recruits and even recalcitrant older cadets; his white hair and moustache and rigidly erect soldier's carriage; the way his eyes would light with welcome when an Old Boy came back – all these things would be part of their memory of The Colonel.

Both Dr. Miller and Old Boy Major Ferdie Marani, who had been Cadet Captain in 1912 and then a fighting officer in the war of 1914-18, wrote of their deep regard for The Colonel in *Acta*. Among other warm things, the *Principal Emeritus* wrote: "He was often severely tried by unruly spirits in the Cadet Corps, but no one ever charged him with giving away to anger. To me his immense patience was a constant source of wonder, and a great object lesson. If he had a good Cadet Corps captain he rejoiced; if a poor one, he took the extra burden on himself and said nothing. In all the years of our association together, I cannot remember an angry word or any suggestion of wrath. . . . Many of the old Ridleians realized later on in life with what a lovable man they had been privileged to live. . . ."

The whole School was grateful that Colonel Thairs had been given his great day in time. On February 25, 1924, with staff and boys of both schools assembled in The Hall and with the two principals and several governors on the platform, his portrait in oils by E. Wyly Grier was unveiled and presented. Vice-President Courtney Kingstone did the honours, recalling that he had come to Ridley in its second year and at once had come under the wonderful influence of "the oldest and most honoured of all Ridleians".

The warm love of boys and men for a great Ridley personality was thus fortunately disclosed and expressed before he died. (*Postscript*: His portrait hangs in the Great Hall. The artist was knighted in 1935.)

Time was catching up with some of Ridley's oldest friends and personalities. In 1924 another great man of Ridley had died. On the first Sunday of the spring term Principal Williams presided at a memorial service in the chapel in memory of Colonel William Hamilton Merritt, one of Ridley's oldest and greatest supporters and the School's first doctor. He had died on April 22 in Rodman Hall, famous home of a famous St. Catharines and Niagara Peninsula family. Descendant of the Hon. William Hamilton Merritt, M.P., who had inspired and largely built the first Welland Canal, the late Colonel Merritt had studied medicine and had been practising in St. Catharines when Ridley was founded. He at once became the boys' physician; he held the post

of Ridley's medical officer for fifteen years and later became a member of the Board as he was at the time of his death. During the 1914-18 war his activity in the militia enabled him to serve as a combatant officer. He organized and led overseas the 14th Battery, C.F.A., commanding it in action until after his guns backed up the 2nd Canadian Division in the bitter fighting for the St. Eloi craters in the spring of 1916. He then transferred to the R.C.A.M.C. and commanded a military hospital in France.

It was the Old Boys who had known him as Riddleys' physician who were most affected by his death, but all Riddleians realized a man had passed on who had remained a staunch friend of Ridley from her first day. For years he had sacrificed an evening each week to coach the boys in public speaking, and his last visit to the School had been to hear the young orators in a speaking contest. His will endowed the Merritt Speaking Prize which is still coveted.

Ridley had lost Dr. W. T. Greenwood the year before. His long hours and unfailing devotion to the boy-patients of Ridley during the influenza epidemics of 1918 and 1919 were gratefully remembered. Dr. Greenwood had treated more than 150 boys in the two years and lost none of them, a remarkable achievement. For that alone Ridley owed him a debt that could never be paid. A dedicated physician of the old school, the entire St. Catharines community as well as Ridley were still mourning his loss and would for a long time.

THE Prize Days of the 1922-to-1925 period were featured by the long-anticipated formal opening and dedication of the Memorial Chapel on Prize Day of 1923. Good weather favoured most of them, and that the concern of parents in the education of their sons was at a new peak was evident in their attendance; Ridley had never before seen parents visiting the School in such numbers – anxious people who often expressed grateful thanks that their boys at Ridley were escaping most of the adverse influences of a disturbing time.

The rapid advance of automobile travel had of course often been noted, especially by the hitch-hikers, but it was brought home more emphatically to Ridley on June 22, 1922 than the hitch-hiking class-skippers had disclosed. Prize Day had its first serious parking problem. The event was blessed with glorious weather after a drenching rain during the early night. The thunderstorms had not deterred parents and friends from an early morning start in their cars for St. Catharines in unexpectedly large numbers. So many converged on Ridley's gates that the motorists among the 100 guests who sat down to lunch were only a beginning. They kept arriving, parking in general disorder – anywhere, anyhow. Perhaps Mel Brock's new "chariot", parked on

the road near Miss Hainer's old house, helped the confusion; too many stopped to examine it, to add to the general blockade. Late arrivals were forced to walk from far beyond the entrance to Ridley's grounds, and not a few were irritated because they did not arrive until after the start of proceedings at 2.30.

There could be greater confusion in 1923 when the Memorial Chapel would be opened, so Ridley was warned. The Bishop of Niagara, an ardent early Ontario motorist, had been one of those delayed by the parking tangle; he was assured a corps of parking attendants (senior boys) would keep the cars in order thereafter. Not only that, Mr. Griffith had decided that Ridley would break with past habits in sympathetic consideration of the parents and Old Boys – not to mention the suffering staff and students – who had too often sat through long-drawn formalities in an oven-like gymnasium. For some reason Prize Day encountered hot, sticky weather so frequently that it had come to be expected, and a long list of speakers, some of whom would have bored even a comfortable audience, had been the Prize Day tradition. It was now broken. There were now two principals, not just one, to report on their school's progress but, in 1922, the only other speakers were Vice-President Courtney Kingstone who presided, and the Bishop of Niagara who presented the prizes. Both spoke but were mercifully brief. In 1923 this was further refined: *only one speaker!* The rest of the programme was also shortened; examination marks were announced at a general assembly of the boys in the old chapel – now to be the Assembly Hall – right after breakfast when the names on the long list of award winners were also revealed.

If this brevity was originally inspired in 1923 by the opening ceremonies for the Memorial Chapel which were to follow, much of the abbreviated pattern of Prize Day's formalities became permanent. On this notable day the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, His Honour Henry Cockshutt, was the single speaker and he talked for no more than five minutes. Mr. Griffith pleased students, masters and Old Boys alike by asking Mr. Ernie Powell, so long at Ridley he was one of its legends, to come forward – not to speak but to call up the winners of the Upper School. It was a gesture which all appreciated toward unassuming Ernie Powell whose life by now had been virtually woven into the fabric of Ridley.

The prize list had been greatly augmented since the war. For the Upper School the most interesting of all the new postwar awards was the Major Bishop General Knowledge Prize, provided by Arthur L. Bishop ('07-'12), a future President of Ridley. In 1922 it very deservedly went to H. G. H. Hansard, and in 1923 it was won by W. D. Matthews. ("Judging by his marks there is not much he doesn't know," commented Mr. Griffith.)

Mr. Griffith spoke highly of the Diligence Prize (won by G. Gibson Pirie); he pointed out that it was not only an important annual award but Ridley's

oldest. It is true it was presented on Ridley's first Prize Day in 1890, but this lead of two years in age could not give it first place in importance over the Mason Gold Medal for True Manliness, first voted to a boy in 1892. It was long since *Acta* or a speaker had paid tribute to it, but glowing remarks were made about its influence on Ridley by that veteran member of the Board, Mr. N. W. Hoyles, K.C., when he presented it in 1922 to R. W. S. Johnston. It was the twenty-first occasion on which Mr. Hoyles had presented it, the first being to Doggie (now Colonel D. H. C.) Mason in 1901. If there were periods when the greatest accolade a Ridley boy could win was in danger of becoming a popularity prize there were always thoughtful Board members and masters to restore the award's integrity.

THE MEMORIAL CHAPEL'S DEEP MEANING

"Play the man, Master Ridley," said the aged Latimer. "We shall this day light such a candle in England as, by God's grace, I trust shall never be put out."

As the boys of the Canadian school which had been named for Ridley, the Martyr, well knew, playing the man had indeed kept the candle of freedom alight in the world, but it had only been done by sacrifice such as that of Ridleians in the Great War. This came home very vividly to both the boys and Old Boys of Ridley as the great day came at last for all Ridleians, whether they were scattered throughout the world or in St. Catharines, to think of the deep meaning of the new Memorial Chapel. It was June 23, 1923, a glorious, glittering day with the sun high and warm and with a stiff breeze forcing the bright, proud Union Jack on Ridley's new pole to tug furiously to break free. Ever since the war's end the Old Boys of Ridley had been subscribing cash personally, collecting from others, discussing, planning and finally fuming impatiently until the architects and builders had moulded their dream into reality. Their austere beautiful Memorial Chapel was now ready to be dedicated to the Glory of God, and in proud, lasting memory of the sixty-one Old Ridleians who paid the Supreme Sacrifice during the Great War.

It seemed fitting to all in the great assembly of Ridleians and their friends that the Board of Governors, Principals Griffith and Williams, and the Old Boys – whose day this really was – should decree that a leading role in the ceremony should be taken by Dr. J. O. Miller, *Principal Emeritus*. He had known each one of Ridley's war-dead. It was he who recalled the admonition at the stake by Latimer to Ridley to play the man, when he spoke in the new chapel of the boys of Ridley who had also been martyrs of freedom.

Parents and relatives of the boys and Old Boys had been converging all the previous day and throughout the morning. The hotels of St. Catharines were full; so was all the accommodation the staff could provide, and at noon the school's facilities were taxed to the limit in trying to give lunch to just a small part of the great muster of Ridleians.

The Cadet Corps opened the ceremony: at 2.15 they paraded on the green, fresh lawn, then marched into the Chapel to their seats. The guests followed, with all seats filled, all aisle-chairs filled and the standing room completely packed. All Ridley, old and new, seemed to be there.

The procession which then came down the centre aisle created the subdued atmosphere of reverence which such a ceremony deserved, though the hushed beauty of the interior and the sacredness of the purpose of the coming service had already done that. The choir led; fresh-faced, deadly serious boys of the Lower School, dressed in spotless cassocks and surplices. Then came the officers of the Old Boys' Association, headed by President Douglas Mason. Next were the dual principals, Mr. Griffith and Mr. Williams, and then came the clergy, including Ridley's *Principal Emeritus*, Dr. Miller; His Lordship the Bishop of Niagara; the Reverend the Provost of Trinity College; the rectors of St. Catharines' churches; the honourary and official chaplains of Ridley College: the Reverend A. H. Howitt and the Reverend W. F. Wallace; and several other clergymen.

The formal presentation of the Chapel to Ridley was made by Colonel Douglas Mason, D.S.O., O.B.E. (1895-1901), as president of the Association, and accepted by another Old Boy of Ridley's early years, the Hon. Mr. Justice A. Courtney Kingstone (1889-92), now vice-president of the Board.

His Lordship, the Bishop of Niagara opened the dedication service, but much of it was taken by Dr. Miller and Ridley's two chaplains. Most moving of all and sharply impressing the full, deep meaning of the ceremony and of the Chapel was the alphabetical reading of the names of Ridley's war-dead by Principal Griffith, with a sudden silence dropping on the stern-faced people of Ridley after the last name was intoned: *Eric Hallman Ziegler*.

Then the silver echoes of the bugles sounding the Last Post broke the long silence, to remain trembling on the air as the hushed stillness fell again.

This was the moment of poignant memories of the great Ridleians who had marched to death, in their proud manifestation of the spirit of service which was also the spirit of Ridley. As the crowd passed into the sunlight the deep meaning of the Memorial Chapel was in all hearts. To them it would never be an edifice of glass, stone and wood.

So many had been unable to attend the afternoon ceremony that a special evening service was arranged. It was taken by the resident chaplain, with Dr. Miller delivering the sermon. (Text: 12th and 15th verses, 7th chapter, *Second Book of Chronicles*.)

"This is one of the greatest days in the history of Ridley College," said Dr. Miller, in the course of one of the most eloquent of his many memorable addresses to the boys of Ridley since 1889. He meant the statement; he had watched over the development of the School with loving care ever since its founding until three years before, and he obviously felt that the addition of the Memorial Chapel was such a momentous Ridley mile-post that it would keep green forever the memory of his old pupils who had sacrificed their lives in order to serve to the limit and beyond.

The Chapel was also tangible evidence that Ridley had now developed to full maturity. She had her own martyrs to mourn and honour. The beautiful chapel was a physical sealing for all to see of Ridley's ideals and principles and traditions, for it honoured the memory of Ridley's boys who had died as men in the spirit of service – the spirit of Ridley.

"It is truly a House of Sacrifice," said the *Principal Emeritus*. "It owes its building to the blood of a little band of Canadian soldiers who once attended Ridley. They played on these fields and enjoyed the delight of boyhood as the boys of Ridley do now. I have often gone over their names one by one and always recalled some fact or incident connected with each; how one had excelled on the playing field, another in the classroom. Still another in personal qualities. But in their great and final act of laying down their lives, all had attained to equal spiritual eminence. Tribute can be paid to none which the others do not share.

"Think what each one gave: Life! What greater thing could a man give than his life?

"Have you caught their spirit? I am sure you have and that you feel it would be sad indeed if in the days to come, their glorious spirit has not entered into the hearts of those to whom they passed the torch. Theirs was the spirit of self-sacrifice," said Dr. Miller, "and this is a House of Sacrifice, built to commemorate that spirit."

Please see 1918 memorial sermon, Appendix A-a.

Acta Ridleiana's report of this great Ridley day concluded with these paragraphs:

In eloquent words, filled with love for his old school, our late Principal pleaded for a closer communion with God. . . .

The great day was over, and in the peaceful calm of a summer night we talked over the events of the day, those whom we had commemorated, and thought with pride of the great school to which we belonged and from which nearly five hundred had answered the call.

Terat Dum Prosim

It must not be forgotten that also embodied in the beautiful new chapel was the deep loyalty to Ridley of her living Old Boys. Even before the war's end they had begun planning for a suitable memorial to their old school

comrades who had been killed-in-action or had died of wounds or as a result of service in the armed forces but with no thought that they were also about to build a monument to their own deep loyalty to Ridley. Yet they had. Their sustained determination to find the funds among themselves and to bring their memorial to reality on this day in June, 1923, represents their most imposing single physical effort in behalf of their old school, but it also remains as abiding evidence of the unswerving desire of the Old Boys to help Ridley. It has gone on through all Ridley's years and eras.

Words cannot effectively describe their Memorial Chapel because the feeling it engendered was primarily emotional, far more significant than its beauty as a physical stone structure. Those who visited it in 1923 felt more than their eyes saw and were not concerned merely with the artistry of its design. To them it was magnificent. This is something of what their eyes did see:

Designed in what the architects called perpendicular Gothic style both the exterior and interior were in Georgetown stone, with windows, copings and doorways constructed of Bedford stone. The tall, finely proportioned new building did not intrude on the standing Ridley structures or tower over them; it merged into and enhanced them and was joined to them by a passageway, starting beside the tall, gracefully arched entrance. Yet the chapel held such a distinguished character of its own that all visitors were aware of the notable contribution it made to physical Ridley. Despite the impressiveness of the memorial's exterior, it was in the hush of the interior that beauty was most striking of all. The stones were laid on edge as they came from the Georgetown quarry, resulting in unexpected colouring from delicate glistening hues. The effect was that of an exquisite natural mosaic. Nine mullioned windows were on the two sides, with small windows in the entrance way and a large window above the altar. At the chancel end of the south side of the body of the Chapel a door led to the vestry. A beautiful organ screen of Bedford limestone lent further beauty to the chancel. The seating throughout was of solid oak, with the chancel furniture distinguished by hand carving. Low-pitched beams created a flat perpendicular ceiling, with principals, purlins and rafters of warm British Columbia cedar.

More soft colour and warmth were added by the memorial windows which were already in place. They seemed to dispel the chapel's newness. The west window on the south side was in memory of Ridleians of St. Catharines among the war-dead—Lieut. J. A. Chestnut; Lieut. J. H. Ingersoll; Lieut. J. G. Scott; Lieut. E. F. Thairs; Lieut. S. D. Woodruff and Gunner G. A. Fairfield. A chancel window was in memory of Lieut. R. G. Jardine. Memorial windows were later installed to honour Lieut. Van R. Irvine and Lieut. A. F. Gates. Other memorials were: an oak eagle lectern in memory of Lieut. J. L. Scatcherd; preacher's desk of J. E. Lennard; the organ screen of Lt. H. M.

A Generous Gift to Ridley



GOODERHAM HOUSE

A Gift to Ridley by the Gooderham brothers.



MELVILLE ROSS GOODERHAM,
K.C. ('91-'92)
President of Ridley 1943-51



GEORGE H. GOODERHAM
President of Ridley, 1912-42



NEW ERA FOR BASKETBALL

This Brock-coached team of 1922 led to teams which played the best intermediate and junior basketball teams in Ontario. *Standing*: S. H. Robinson; Bozo (G. M.) Inglis (Captain '23); John (J. M.) Bright; Jack (J. F.) Sanderson, high scorer; A. J. Stringer. *Seated*: T. W. Bright; Mr. Mel Brock and C. L. MacKenzie, Captain.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

1910

A. W. TAYLOR
('89-'90)

Member of the Board,
1912-38



1912

R. M. HARCOURT
('00-'05)

(President also
1932 to 1936)



1900

W. R. WADSWORTH
('90-'93)

The second President;
an original organizer.



Grassett; the Chapel's Bible of Lieut. E. H. Ziegler; the communion service of Lieut. S. D. Woodruff and an alms basin in memory of Lieut. A. F. Gates. The communion table was to honour Katharine Alexander Miller, wife of the *Principal Emeritus*. This latter memorial was provided by past and present members of the staff and also by masters who had been at Ridley while Mrs. Miller was alive. (*Postscript*: Sproatt and Rolph, architects of the Memorial Chapel, were awarded a gold medal by the American Institute of Architects for educational and institutional architecture in 1924, the citation stating: "The chief features of their exhibit were the designs for the Memorial Tower at the University of Toronto and for the noble Gothic Chapel at Ridley College, St. Catharines.")

During earlier Sunday evenings in the spring of 1923 there had been a touch of almost sad nostalgia in the realization that the last services were being held in the Prayer Hall which had meant so much to so many Ridley boys and which had been the scene of so many memorable Sunday evening chapel services that they had become a fast Ridley tradition. Mr. Griffith thought of this, and on the last Sunday but one he recalled the various Ridley rooms which had served as a chapel since 1889. In the reception room of the old Springbank Sanatorium, thirty-two boys had first assembled for prayers. The first Sunday evening chapel service had been held in it in September of that year. It was an exceptionally beautiful room, by far the most imposing in the old Victorian hotel. It was used until Springbank was destroyed by fire in 1903. The second Ridley chapel had been part of the dining room of the old Stephenson House in which Ridley had been housed while the present School House was being built. In January, 1905 the first Sunday evening chapel service was held in the new Prayer Hall. On the roll of Old Boys in 1923 were a total of about 1300 names; Principal Griffith said that approximately 900 of these boys had worshipped in the Prayer Hall since that first Sunday in 1905.

It was during the third last Sunday evening service that the most memorable episode occurred which the old Prayer Hall had ever known; it was a disastrous accident, not meant to be either sacrilegious or hilarious, but Old Boys of 1923 still rock with mirth at the thought of it. Elliot Peixotto ('16-'24) was the hapless victim. The undisputed champion crap-shooter of Ridley, he was sitting on the aisle directly under the closed eyes of Mr. Griffith who was intoning the closing prayer. Suddenly Peixotto had to sneeze; he grabbed for his handkerchief – *and out flew a pair of dice!* They hit the hard floor with a rattle, then bounced and bounced and bounced down the aisle. There was an instant of awful silence as Mr. Griffith paused and opened his eyes. The dice were staring brazenly up at him – showing a seven! Then he went on with the prayer, the service ending in a hubbub of whispered speculation over Peixotto's fate, with sympathy diluted by sheer delight over the exciting catastrophe.

Elliot was such a skilled crap-shooter he had not only won nearly all the cash in his form but also the pocket-money allowance of 75 cents per week for months ahead of most of his dormitory. ("All I did until the end of that term was to line up for my weekly 75 cents and then give it to Peixotto; he'd wait outside, entering our payments in a little book." – Harry Foster.) Elliot had never thrown such a disastrous "natural" as that seven in the aisle. When he came back from the Principal's office he was rushed at once to the bathroom, according to custom, while the boys counted the cane strokes on his backside. It was easy to count them on Peixotto; he marked easily. He had really "got it"; there were red welts from the calf of one leg to the top of both buttocks.

The ingenuity and daring of boys in inventing devices to outwit the masters, more for the sake of outwitting them than anything else, was evident in that dormitory by a Bootlegger's Hide. There was also a concealed hole in the wainscoting leading into the chimney's draft; you could lie on the floor and smoke in safety, blowing your cigarette fumes into the hole. But far more dangerous was the niche in the wall above the top of a flag but hidden by it. The cache held wine bottles; you could push the flag aside and not see a thing. The Bootlegger's Hide was never discovered. It may have been the original invention of a drinking senior, but the fact that half a bottle of wine had been there for a long time, untouched, seemed to say that the thrill of possessing the hide was the important thing.

The Prayer Hall was now to be known simply as The Hall or the Assembly Hall. It continued to play a valuable role in the life of the School but merely as a functional wing, while the Memorial Chapel stood apart, a majestic monument in stone and a revered symbol of spiritual Ridley.

*Ridley Chapel in the morning,
Incarnation fresh and pure
Of those souls who, this life scorning,
Fought to make the issue sure.*

*Ridley Chapel, hallowed dwelling
Of the spirits of the dead:
We have made you as a temple
For the sacred flame they fed.*

– Acta Ridleiana

Prize Day of 1924 was not particularly hot, but the new practice of having a single guest speaker and of not reserving surprises for the ceremony, gave comfortable time for an inspiring address by General Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.B., now principal of McGill and former commander of the Canadian Corps. As an educator he was seriously disturbed about the assault of the

Roaring Twenties on the values of youth and the old, fine principles of citizenship. His address of June 20, 1924, was not only timely, but the General surprised both staff and boys by the deep feeling in his talk and the strength of his oratory. They had understood Old Guts-and-Gaiters (a private soldier's 1916 term) had particularly stiff-necked brass-hat traits, but his speech was almost lyrical. Here is a snatch of it:

"Keep your hearts young; and do not fall into the modern habit of complaining about the world or into the modern desire to uproot established conventions. You did not make the world. You cannot spoil it; you can only make it better; enter into its joy with hope and faith.

"The tear-stained world needs your smile and your bright outlook from the eyes of youth," Sir Arthur concluded, quoting:

*If youth but knew there are so many songs
for youth to sing!
Lay down, then, youth, your foolish, fancied wrongs,
your questioning.
Take up your harp of joy where faith belongs
and wake each string!
Ah, heart of youth, there are so many songs –
Go forth and sing!*

There are Old Boys who will tell you that both the seniors and the masters considered Sir Arthur's address had made a memorable occasion of this Prize Day.

The following year still another great Canadian soldier distinguished Ridley's Prize Day – gruff, bluff General Sir Archibald Macdonnell – who was affectionately called Batty Mac by the officers and men of the 1st Canadian Division which he had led in battle. Col. Douglas Mason and Major F. H. Marani escorted him from Toronto. He was now commandant of R.M.C. He mentioned fine fighting officers who had gained their military grounding at Ridley before serving under him and spoke inspiringly on leadership – "Play the game, be chivalrous in victory and have equanimity of mind in defeat." He made it sound like a sharp command.

RIDLEY'S TOP AWARDS, 1922-5

	MASON GOLD MEDAL FOR TRUE MANLINESS (on the vote of the boys)	HEAD BOY (Governor-General's Gold Medal)	HEAD BOY of the Lower School (Mason Gold Medal)
1922	R. W. S. Johnston	G. F. Biggar	R. T. L. Rogers I
1923	N. K. Gordon	R. Turnbull	H. R. Tucker
1924	S. K. Bongard	R. C. Bertram	J. H. O'Flynn
1925	M. H. Snyder } H. B. Soanes } tie	H. B. Soanes	A. T. Olmsted

Mr. Griffith noted that the tie vote for the two boys (above) for Ridley's greatest honour had never before occurred in the history of the School. The boys traditionally took such care in making their choice, refusing to be influenced by a boy's family wealth or his personal popularity or geniality or athletic prowess or scholarship and studiously giving their vote primarily on a basis of integrity of character, that a tie after so many votes was indeed remarkable. Mr. Griffith warmly congratulated both boys, saying that they had each worthily upheld the honour of the School and had earned throughout their careers at Ridley the confidence of their school fellows. Both boys received the coveted medal, of course.

With the opening of the new chapel there were again references to the religious denominations of Ridley boys and the old question recurred: Should non-Anglicans be admitted? The question was never answered, just as it was left unanswered the last time it came up in 1921. No answer was required. Boys of several denominations were attending Ridley, had been for many years and always would. Without a stated policy by the Board it was left to the judgment of the school administration to admit boys of any faith as long as they conformed generally with the regular religious routine of the School.

This policy is still followed.

The importance of the Church to the School was re-emphasized, however, in 1924. As part of the first general by-law of the new Corporation, the Primate of All Canada and all the Bishops of the Church of England in Canada were appointed *Special Visitors*. This was a return to the policy of earlier years which had been gradually modified to the perhaps more realistic, but now again considered inadequate, appointment of the Bishop of Niagara only as *The Visitor*.

THE FIRST BOARD OF GOVERNORS (1924)

ALL manner of things had been discussed by the Board of Directors and Ridley bond-holders since the war, for it had been a busy and fruitful eight years between Armistice Day 1918 and 1925, and such items as these appeared in the minutes: Masters' salaries and bonuses; insurance; day-boys; the appointment of a new night watchman; fire extinguishers; hydrants; permission to the St. Catharines Cricket Club to use one of the School fields (1920); bursaries; new masters; *Acta*; war casualties; Mr. Ingersoll's resignation as second vice-president in May, 1919; Mr. A. C. Kingstone's appointment in his place in October, 1919; Sir E. W. Beatty, K.C., on the Board as of May 1919; a mention of Miss Durham who was the School's bookkeeper for many years; Mr. A. L. Bishop's presence at a meeting in November, 1920; Mr. Alfred Rogers' wartime appointment to the Board.

In several years discussion by the Board of Directors had returned to the possibility of changing the corporate nature of Ridley from one formed as a shareholders' corporation to a purely non-profit corporation without share capital. To achieve it all outstanding bonds would need to be returned to the School as donations or sold back at a low figure. That bonds were still a factor in financing was evident in 1921 when outstanding bonds were valued at \$57,000 together with \$46,000 of the original share capital. It was even more specifically evident in 1922 when the Board authorized the pledging of college bonds as collateral to cover some early payments toward the construction of the Memorial Chapel.

Throughout several years the minutes of Board meetings incorporated references to the effort to persuade bondholders to return their holdings to Ridley or to sell back their bonds at a price the School could pay. By 1923 a great reduction had been achieved and President Gooderham advised the Local Board that only \$9,850 of the original \$46,000 owing for subscribed stock was still outstanding. By January, 1924 the Board was in a position to request the Ontario Government to change Ridley's charter to one of a corporation without share capital. Ridley's solicitors, Messrs. Ingersoll, Kingstone & Seymour of St. Catharines were given the assignment of drafting a bill and a petition. Approval by the Ontario Government was at once forthcoming; on April 17, 1924 the Act received Royal Assent from the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. Henry Cockshutt, and became law. It cancelled all shares while preserving any rights or claims against the old corporation which was considered wound up.

The Bill named the governors of the new Corporation. In one sense they became founders of the modern Ridley, but they had all been directors on the former Board.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 1924

President

Mr. George H. Gooderham

Vice-presidents

The Hon. and Reverend H. J. Cody
and Mr. A. C. Kingstone.

Directors

Sir Edward W. Beatty,
Arthur L. Bishop,
Edward D. Gooderham,
M. Ross Gooderham,
Harold B. Greening,
Henry C. Griffith,
Newman W. Hoyles,
J. Hamilton Ingersoll,

Wilmot L. Matthews,
W. Hamilton Merritt,
John O. Miller,
Stanley C. Norsworthy,
Thomas O'Meara,
Carl Riordon,
Alfred Rogers,
Albert W. Taylor,

Aemilius Jarvis,
Frederick C. Jarvis,
Reuben W. Leonard,
Douglas H. C. Mason,

Henry J. Taylor,
Henry G. Williams,
George M. Wrong.

The governors had many important projects in hand in these postwar years which demanded the devotion of a great deal of personal time. Time, thought and money had always been given generously and willingly, and the members of this Board of 1924 were especially faithful. They felt more than recompensed by advice that Old Boy Ross Wilson of Oakville was making an unusually large cash donation toward the cost of the chapel.

Recent renovations and new construction (apart from Gooderham House) had meant disturbing red ink on the Secretary-Treasurer's ledgers for some years to come. Mr. Wilson's gift erased most of it. His only stipulation was that it was to be applied to the following purposes:

1. To erect the reredos and a new organ in the Chapel.
2. To pay off the balance due on the Chapel after all outstanding subscriptions have been paid.
3. To wipe off the school debt.

At the time Mr. Wilson's gift was made anonymously, and if the Board respected this desire they still acknowledged their gratitude in the minutes: "Such a generous gift from an Old Boy of the School is a matter of deepest gratification to the Board of Governors. It shows the substantial interest taken by the Old Boys in their school and at the same time it relieves the Board of obligations which would have otherwise long remained a cause of great anxiety."

Harmony and mutual confidence between the Board and the academic administration had prevailed with remarkable steadiness year after year, regardless of occasional changes in the composition of both the staff and the Board and despite inevitable conflicting opinions on some policies between the educators and the business and professional men on the Board. Yet if all were sincerely dedicated to the same end, to the welfare of Ridley, it would be untrue to suggest that the Board members themselves did not sometimes have stiff arguments or that some meetings between governors and the principals were not marked by disagreements, clashes between personalities and even a touch of testiness now and then. Operating a boys' school entails too many problems for nothing but smooth equanimity to prevail permanently. There was an episode in March, 1924, when the two principals were even scolded. This occurred when a small boy in Lower School decided to be a run-away. He just took off, without saying goodbye. Unhappily he became lost and for a few hours was missing, with publicity resulting from the search

for him. He was soon safe, but there were repercussions as revealed by the following somewhat acrid letter from Vice-president A. Courtney Kingstone, K.C., who was also chairman of the Local Board:

March 19, 1924

Dear Mr. Griffith and Mr. Williams,

Mr. Albert Taylor, Mr. Ingersoll and myself were surprised to learn from outside sources on Tuesday that one of the boys had run away from the Junior School and that considerable difficulty had arisen over it and a certain amount of notoriety followed. What we were surprised at and felt strongly about was that it was not brought to the attention of the Board who were sitting in Mr. Griffith's house at a meeting on Monday night. Some of us have felt even prior to this happening that there has not always been on the part of the Principals the fullest co-operation with the Board on all matters that might be of importance and relate to the well-being of the School. If we are going to get the best results for the School we must expect both of you as Principals to take us into your full confidence and inform us about matters which although you may consider they relate to the internal economy of the School nevertheless affect the credit and reputation of the School in the public mind, and also affect ourselves as Directors from the public viewpoint.

I am sorry that I should have to write in this way to you gentlemen but we three feel strongly on the fact that in this particular instance this information should have been withheld from us. There should be hearty co-operation and assistance of the Principals with the Board and the Board with the Principals in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the School, but we do not feel you have shown proper confidence in your Board in this case.

Yours sincerely,

A. Courtney Kingstone

There was more resentment than consternation over Mr. Kingstone's comment about lack of co-operation. Mr. Griffith does not appear to have been in an apologetic mood; at least, a draft letter by him declared that the insinuation of an intent to conceal "cut deeply". He telephoned Mr. George H. Gooderham, Ridley's president, at Toronto and asked for a full Board meeting. The incident was then apparently soon smoothed over, with harmony restored in relations between the local Board and the two principals.

The episode seems worth mentioning if only to emphasize two things: how seriously the members of the Board accepted their responsibilities and the fact that the life of a principal was sometimes filled with problems that were far from academic.

There were still more kindnesses and help for Ridley, this time from an entirely new source. In 1924, a new section began to appear in alternate issues of *Acta Ridleiana*. It was given the title: *The Ridley College Women's Guild*. A group of ladies of Ridley families became inspired with the feeling

they could further the work of the School in many ways, and their Guild was organized at Toronto on December 7, 1923. They virtually adopted the Memorial Chapel, with a first project to be completion of chancel furnishings. The first officers of the Women's Guild were: President: Mrs. E. F. Blake; 1st Vice-President: Mrs. Adam Ballantyne; 2nd Vice-President: Mrs. Strachan Johnston; Executive Committee: Mrs. W. D. H. Kerr, Mrs. Harold Drope; Mrs. Hamilton Cassels and Mrs. Murray Alexander; Hon. Sec. Treasurer: Mrs. M. L. Lee.

By the time of the Guild's second annual meeting (December 18, 1925) a branch had been formed at Winnipeg which would donate a beautiful oak sedilia to the chancel. Another branch at London undertook to provide the chancel with cushions and the Toronto group pledged itself to supply a chancel rug. The ladies of the Guild did all they promised and more. (They next turned to furnishing the Headmaster's study in the Lower School.)

THE autumn sports at Ridley could always be played with light minds and happy schoolboy abandon because the term was new and academic worries could be carelessly shrugged aside. The dread of examinations to come could throw a mental pall over cricket or the field sports in the late spring, but such menaces did not haunt the footballers or the cross-country runners.

The 1922-to-1925 period was a day of great Ridley football captains like Nipper (G. J.) Cliff who led his 1922 team to a Little Big Four Championship (their first for five years); Strachan Bongard and J. D. Buchanan, captain for both 1924 and 1925; mighty half-backs like S. B. McCormack and E. R. Davey; tricky broken-field runners like the indefatigable and courageous Red Foster; clever quarter-backs like R. H. Innes and Billy (W. E. N.) Bell who disclosed as a first-year man (1925) that he would develop into one of the best quarters in Ridley's football history. They had great linesmen, too, men who too often go unsung: Jack Millidge, F. C. Tilley, Murray Snyder and several other team-pillars. The Ridley team of 1922 was much the best in these four years; they lost their first game of the season to Galt's Intermediate O.R.F.U. team (17-11) or it would have been a year of a clean sweep. Despite having ten new colours on the team they were invincible after that opening set-back. They sang *We're Champions Again* because they downed their three school rivals in unbroken succession, two by an identical score:

St. Andrew's defeated 14-3

T.C.S. defeated 14-3

Upper Canada defeated 29-4

Ridley's Little Big Four championship team of 1922 had two third-year men, G. J. Cliff, captain and centre-half, and A. M. Walker, right middle; three second-year men, C. O. Fairbank ma, centre-scrim; R. A. DeWitt, flying wing and Strachan Bongard, right-half; the rest were all first-year men – Red (H. E.) Foster, left-half; N. L. C. Mather, quarter; and A. J. Stringer, N. K. Gordon, J. A. Millidge, J. McCallum, J. D. Buchanan, R. F. Moritz and F. C. Tilley, all on the line. M. Inglis, spare half, took Red Foster's place after Red was injured in the St. Andrew's game, and E. H. Botterell, spare wing, played in two of the school games.

In the Lower School in 1922 some of Ridley's athletic greats of four or five years later were in the making. On the first football team were men like Gooderham ma (captain), Bell ma, Connolly, Fischer, Nivin and Subosits, football-names to be known to all Ridleians within a short time. Lower School football was also going great guns in '22, with a fine season capped by defeating Upper Canada, 21-1. (*Postscript*: It was well the Lower School did not know it would be another ten years before they would again defeat the juniors of U.C.C.)

The School football team was due now for a stretch of lean years; a football gloom settled down on Ridley that lasted through 1923-4-5-6, but they proved that championships were not a requirement of either school spirit or football spirit. In 1923 Ridley downed Upper Canada 41-5 and T.C.S. 74-2 – a humiliating catastrophe for the Port Hope boys – but St. Andrew's in turn defeated Ridley 19-13. Then Ridley faced their own humiliation in 1924; they lost to both Upper Canada 19-12 and to St. Andrew's 15-1, a shocking thing – so shocking they could find no consolation in winning their other four matches, one a narrow victory (20-19) in an exciting game with University of Toronto Schools.

The same disaster struck them again in 1925 – a defeat by two of their three rival schools. They won six games in 1925 but this was again little compensation for losses to Upper Canada (22-12) and to St. Andrew's (14-4).

Their football frustration still refused to break; in 1926 they even lost to T.C.S. for the first time since 1911. ("The games were played in the proper spirit. The school tradition for fair play and courage were maintained. We have no excuses and no regrets to record.") Brave words, well if wryly spoken!

The last athletic event of each calendar year was still the Cross-Country Run, and from 1922 through 1925 four annual endurance tests made sure this old athletic tradition was maintained with zest. In 1922 all records were broken in the total number of contestants, but the run was not yet an all-school event. The suppers which always followed by both Upper and Lower Schools also ran true to form; they invariably inspired young Ridleians with a fresh surge of school spirit to take home with them for Christmas.

Imperceptibly, full participation by all boys in the annual Cross-Country Run had begun to develop along the lines of the Cadet Corps' new policy – "compulsion by expectation". There was no written or stated order, but before long every boy in the School discovered that he was expected to turn out for the great School run. It was such a firm expectation that a boy had to find an excellent excuse to escape it. He soon did not bother to debate whether he would run or not, regardless of the nastiness of the November weather. *Acta* adjured all boys to line up with the starters, and both masters and prefects firmly implied that it was taken for granted every boy would run – regardless. The doctor could excuse him but nothing else could let him out of it. He must run even if he knew he would be trailing the leaders "from School House to the bridge".

Acta had helped inspire future all-school turnouts with sharp reproof about only seventy entries all told in 1921, which probably spurred the record turnout to date of 113 Upper School boys to face the starter in 1922. Not only that, a near-miracle happened: *all finished!* Such a result was not before recorded and probably has not been since. In addition, another forty-five small boys ran with fierce determination in the Lower School's private Cross-Country. The entire field of gallant small boys also finished.

Acta was still a bit critical in 1923 – "We do not approve of the Walking Brigade" – but the turnout continued high from this year forward, despite the frequent cold November rain and even snow, and always tough running.

The first Ridley Cross-Country Run had been held in 1891 (won by C. E. Lee), so this was now the oldest consecutively staged single athletic event on Ridley's sports calendar. In 1897 Harry Griffith had donated the prize for the senior winner, and it was Principal Griffith who still awarded the trophy.

In 1922 the Lower School was making its 22nd annual run. It will be recalled that a huge, iced and spiced Cross-Country cake had once been presented to every boy of the Lower School to finish but that was when they tackled the seven-mile run (it's now about six) with the seniors. When their distance was wisely greatly shortened almost all finished and the pile of big cakes on the first year of the shortened race proved such a strain on finances and small-boy digestions that the finishing awards were hastily reduced to eight cakes all told. This did not prevent a struggle to avoid last place which equalled the heroic battle up ahead for the Col. Reid Cup (won by Gooderham in 1922) and the A. W. Taylor Silver Medal (won by Nivin).

The prizes and cakes were still presented at an exclusive Lower School Cross-Country party where the fun was more wonderful than at the slightly more restrained Upper School dinner because the youngsters had not yet reached the stage where one strives for dignity.

*At a signal we start on our cross-country run –
To tell you the truth it wasn't much fun;
To run on a day so bleak and so cold
You certainly needed to be very bold.*

*Some took the water jump by wading through,
And some crossed by a log they knew;
But everyone finished in very good style
Though some were behind by nearly a mile.*

– M. A. Waters in *Acta*

CROSS-COUNTRY WINNERS, 1922-5

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Lower School</i>
1922	A. J. Stringer (Time: 37.30)	J. R. Fletcher	J. B. Brown	G. W. Gooderham
1923	A. J. Stringer (Time: 37.32)	J. B. Brown	J. Lind	E. S. Fischer
1924	R. L. Harper (Time: 41.15)	J. S. H. Lind	J. C. Harvey	G. F. McAvity
1925	J. D. Buchanan (Time: 43.08)	F. C. Nivien	G. F. McAvity	R. B. Mackenzie I

In each year the weather for the race had been generally bad, with the tow path along the canal slippery and the ploughed fields heavy. To account for the discrepancy in the time of the senior winners in 1924 the bridge over Twelve Mile Creek was down, lengthening the race. The exact distance run is unknown; it was “about” seven miles, as it had been for years. The area is now largely built up.

THE BUSY WINTERS

IT WAS NOT long before this that Ontario's winters had been a time for hibernation, with farmers staying close to the warmth of their barns and stables and city folk hurrying between the furnaces and stoves of their homes and their heated factories and offices and hustling back again. A great increase in motor-cars, motion-picture theatres and hockey rinks was now taking more and more people out of their snug homes in the winter. In Ridley's early days there also had been this sense of hibernation in the winter, with the dark weeks marked by boredom, pent-up restlessness and an uncontrollable urge for mischief. This schoolboy impulse never changes but the need to remain indoors had been completely banished from Ridley. Teams were constantly abroad, especially on Saturdays. There was always added concentration on study in the winter, but so many intramural activities had

been now tried out and adopted that the winter had become Ridley's busiest season of the year. The lights of the gym were on late all winter long for Capt. Iggulden still always had earnest aspirants for the ten colours of the gymnastic team who wanted extra practice and instruction, or a large squad of cadets would be rehearsing club swinging, sword exercises and fencing for the gymnasium display which traditionally followed the gymnasts' competition. Besides, the rink was busier than ever; basketball was thriving at last; and an important revival in boxing was also in progress.

The Witton Cup, emblematic of the champion gymnast of the School, was won in the years 1922-5 by:

1922 – R. C. Gage (92 points)

1923 – Ney (N. K.) Gordon (99½ points)

1924 – F. C. Tilley (99½ points)

1925 – R. L. Harper (99½ points)

That the near-perfection implied by the score of 99½ points for the champions of the last three years did not stem from generous judging was apparent in the closeness of the contest for the Cup in 1925. F. C. Tilley, the winner in 1924, failed to be the first double winner in 1925 by a little slip he made when landing from the backlift off the horizontal bar. It cost him first place. The boys were uniformly so skilled on the apparatus that any such slight error could mean losing, not winning.

Most Ridley athletes were at least two-sport men, and if their second game was not a major team-sport they might see it rise and fall in popularity so rapidly that in one year it would seem to be a current craze and in the next it would appear to be dying out entirely. The boys of Ridley would be all-out for a game or completely apathetic; they did not believe in half-measures. Boxing had been one of these in-and-out sports and in 1922 it had such a vigorous revival it was apparent that Ridley was off on another surge of great enthusiasm. Not only that, boxing was now to be given a more important place in Ridley's athletic life than ever before; this upturn in activity in the manly art would be permanent.

Sergt. A. Alexander, former middle-weight champion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, was engaged as boxing instructor; by the time he had a new ring constructed and was giving his first demonstrations to a class of hopeful young prize-fighters on how to block a straight left or counter with a right cross, a huge crate of new boxing gloves arrived. All sizes of fists could be fitted, even the small hands of the 60-pounders of the Lower School. They were the gift of Old Boy Charlie (C. O.) Fairbank of Petrolia. Arriving almost simultaneously – weeks before needed – were enough challenge shields, with replicas for presentation to the champions at all the school fighting

weights. The prizes for the first big boxing tournament to come were the gift of another Old Boy, W. Robertson of Toronto.

Next, that all this preparation was part of a new school policy was evident in an unexpected decree: boxing instruction would now be compulsory for all boys in the Lower School. It was not rigidly compulsory; a few youngsters in each form were generally excused boxing by the School doctor or by a parent's request. But the now familiar Ridley policy of "compulsion by expectation" was as effective for boxing as for the Cross-Country Run and the Cadet Corps. It was also just as permanent.

The decision may have shocked some fond mothers until they realized their small sons were not being encouraged to become prize-fighters but were only to be equipped a little better for manhood with all instruction carefully supervised. The small boys were closely watched by Sgt. Alexander, especially the shy and timid who were probably the best men of all for they did not really like boxing. This first season they girded themselves manfully for the fray and followed Sgt. Alexander's instruction with intent seriousness – "Keep your guard up!" – "Jab short and sharp, that's it!" . . . "Box 'im, box 'im . . . on your toes, on your toes." They learned to give and take, to control their tempers, to fight back under fire. There was probably not a small boy who did not gain in control of anger, fostering of courage, in self-confidence, muscle co-ordination, sharpened reflexes.

The extent of the actual boxing knowledge and skill the boys acquired was actually negligible; the number to be instructed was too large for much individual coaching, but some natural young boxers, with good reflexes, grew remarkably proficient.

The theory behind boxing as a compulsory sport in the Lower School, while it was optional in the Upper School, was on the premise that by giving the boys a little experience in the squared ring while they were still light in weight, their punches would be light. As their blows grew stronger as they grew older and heavier, they could box or not as they wished. The huge fields of older boys who invariably fought through the preliminaries during the years ahead in the hope of reaching the finals disclosed that boxing attracted many boys until they left Ridley.

If some of the seniors had not helped Sgt. Alexander handle the preliminary bouts before the first big boxing tournament, he would not have been ready in time. Groups of boys in the lighter weights were still battling hard in semi-final bouts the night before. The show went off well, to mark the first of many annual "boxing nights" to come. There was no lack of experienced ring officials. The Mayor of St. Catharines presented the shields to the following champions:

Midget Class (95 lb.)	—	Waters beat Dodge
Fly Weight (105 lb.)	—	Smith ma beat Jones
Bantam Weight (115 lb.)	—	Docherty beat Cronyn
Feather Weight (125 lb.)	—	Pirie beat Breckenridge
Light Weight (135 lb.)	—	Welch beat Hartt
Middle Weight (158 lb.)	—	Bright mi beat Gordon
Light Heavy (over 160 lb.)	—	Bright ma beat Mackenzie

The bouts were all of three 3-minute rounds and this first success heralded a permanent repetition of fine tournaments. In 1923 the wildest excitement of years occurred in the battle for the Middleweight Championship between Red (H. E.) Foster and Jack Millidge who had been the winner in 1922. The bout was furiously fought in all rounds and both boxers finished with a sprained thumb. The exciting bout inspired a Fourth Form poet to wax lyrical in *Acta*:

*When the boys of Ridley College
Go a-scrapping in the ring,
You're bound to see a battle
That will make your pulses sing.*

*Just a very short three minutes
But they make a lengthy round,
In which Walker hits McCallum
And McCallum hits the ground.*

*And then there's Battling Greening,
That Fourth Form kid so fair,
Who could not possibly forget
To brilliantine his hair.*

*Jack Millidge and Red Foster
Put up a fight so rare,
That we could only grip our seats
And look ahead and stare.*

*But why go into detail
When they all fought so like men?
For I'm no more a poet
Than the dead Tutankhamen.*

— Ross Blaikie

Foster lost to Millidge which was no disgrace, for Jack won a boxing championship in three successive years. Perhaps Red Foster was a better footballer, but he was dead-game in the ring; grown to a welter-weight in 1924 he lost his semi-final to G. C. Pirie. Jack Millidge was again star of

the 1924 bouts, though Billy (W. E. N.) Bell, in the 80-lb. class, defeated R. C. Hague so decisively that the boxing reporter declared: "Bell has a boxing career ahead of him," adding, a bit surprisingly: "He used his head as well as his hands and feet." Billy proved the compliment was deserved by moving up to the 115-lb. class in 1925 and winning again.

A very gallant fighter was Hume Cronyn who fought through the preliminaries into the finals in both 1924 and 1925 but each time was beaten for the championship in his weight.

The furious clashes between J. D. Buchanan and J. McCallum in the finals for the light-heavyweight championships of 1923 and 1924 provided a wonderful finale to each tournament. In 1923 McCallum beat Buchanan; in 1924 Buchanan reversed the decision as the two met once more in the finals. In 1925 McCallum had graduated but Buchanan was again champion, this time beating the formidable Tilley by flooring him with a right hook to the jaw and winning on a technical knock-out.

With the position of boxing secure, the most dubiously established of all Ridley's athletic competitions supposed to be held annually was swimming. Only the Lower School was active in the pool in 1920 and 1921, but its small leaks were tar-patched the following year and there was a huge entry list for the diving and racing competitions in the pool, with the Alfred Rogers cup won by Moritz. The School's Senior Swimming Champion was a stand-out in both swimming and diving. Richardson was declared Intermediate Champion, with Greene topping the juniors.

Then the Upper School aquatic contests lapsed due to disinterest, but not in the Lower School. The junior boys held their annual contest in a patched-up tank year after year and made it a serious school sport. By the time they went on to the Upper School they could at least swim, if they could not break records. In 1925 a Lower School boy, Ernie Fischer, won the junior championship of the School just to prove the value of Rep Williams' insistence on swimming.

In this year's revival of the Upper School contests Don Rogers won his father's cup, emblematic of the senior swimming championship of Ridley.

If the aquatic sports suffered from both disinterest and a leaking pool, which eventually defied further repairs, the upsurge in postwar basketball skill was more than compensation. It will be recalled that Mel Brock, Olympic runner, had joined Ridley in 1914 only to leave shortly for the Army. He had then coached basketball and track-and-field at the University of Western Ontario and was an inspiration behind the establishment of W.O.S.S.A.A. (Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association). But he was back at Ridley by September, 1921, to teach English and, of course, to coach basketball. His personal exuberance and popularity saw more Ridley boys playing basketball that winter than ever before. Mr. Brock could have supplied several squads for outside competition. The first team won 7 of their 11 matches and the

second team managed three outside games. (Mel Brock was shortly also coach of the football seconds and assisting Mr. Griffith with the firsts.)

This School team of 1922 were by far the most skilled basketballers Ridley had known since the serious start of the game in 1910-11. Further, the team forecast others which played the top junior and intermediate teams in Ontario and defeated many of them. The 1922 team which was the base for the new era in Ridley basketball was comprised of C. L. Mackenzie, captain; Bozo Inglis, who captained the 1923 team, Jack Sanderson, a first-year player who had won the Senior Championship on Sports Day ('22) and was high scorer in both 1922 and 1923; John and T. W. Bright; S. H. Robinson and The Bishop (A. J. Stringer).

In 1923 the promise Mel Brock had seen in the 1922 team proved itself. The season began with another new peak in the number of boys eager to play basketball and ended with a glorious record: all opposition overwhelmed in the Niagara Peninsula except a single loss to Niagara Falls Collegiate. Many of the opposing teams had been composed of much older and stronger players. Included in the victories was one over a Canada Life team which saw Ridley score 100 points for the first time, still something of a rarity in basketball in Canada and the United States. (*Postscript:* There was great satisfaction that season for two Ridley brothers in a defeat of Wycliffe College 31-22; their older brothers (both Ridley Old Boys) were playing for Wycliffe. It was a Stringer family feud, the four sons of Bishop Stringer of the Yukon, who had enthralled the boys at a Sunday evening chapel service with the tale of a grim episode in the Arctic in which the Bishop and his guide had only survived by chewing their mukluks.)

In these years basketball scores were running about 75 per cent as high as they do today in the senior intercollegiate leagues. The score-sheet of Ridley's 1923 season (from January 17 to March 17) might have been for play in any area at the time. It also reveals that a score of 100 was indeed rare:

vs Y.M.C.A. Juniors	54 - 23 won
vs St. Catharines Juveniles	35 - 24 won
vs Niagara Falls C.I.	16 - 43 lost
vs Welland	38 - 27 won
vs St. Catharines	62 - 32 won
vs Y.M.C.A. Intermediates	26 - 18 won
vs Niagara Falls C.I.	24 - 20 won
vs De Veaux Military School	40 - 26 won
vs Wycliffe College	31 - 22 won
vs De Veaux	48 - 33 won
vs Hamilton C.I.	34 - 28 won
vs Canada Life	100 - 25 won

As a climax to this great basketball season – 11 wins, 1 defeat – Mr. Brock took them to London at the beginning of the Easter holidays. They played



The Memorial Chapel



St. Paul

The Boy Christ
(from Hoffman)

St. John

Figures from the Reredos



St. David
(Wales)

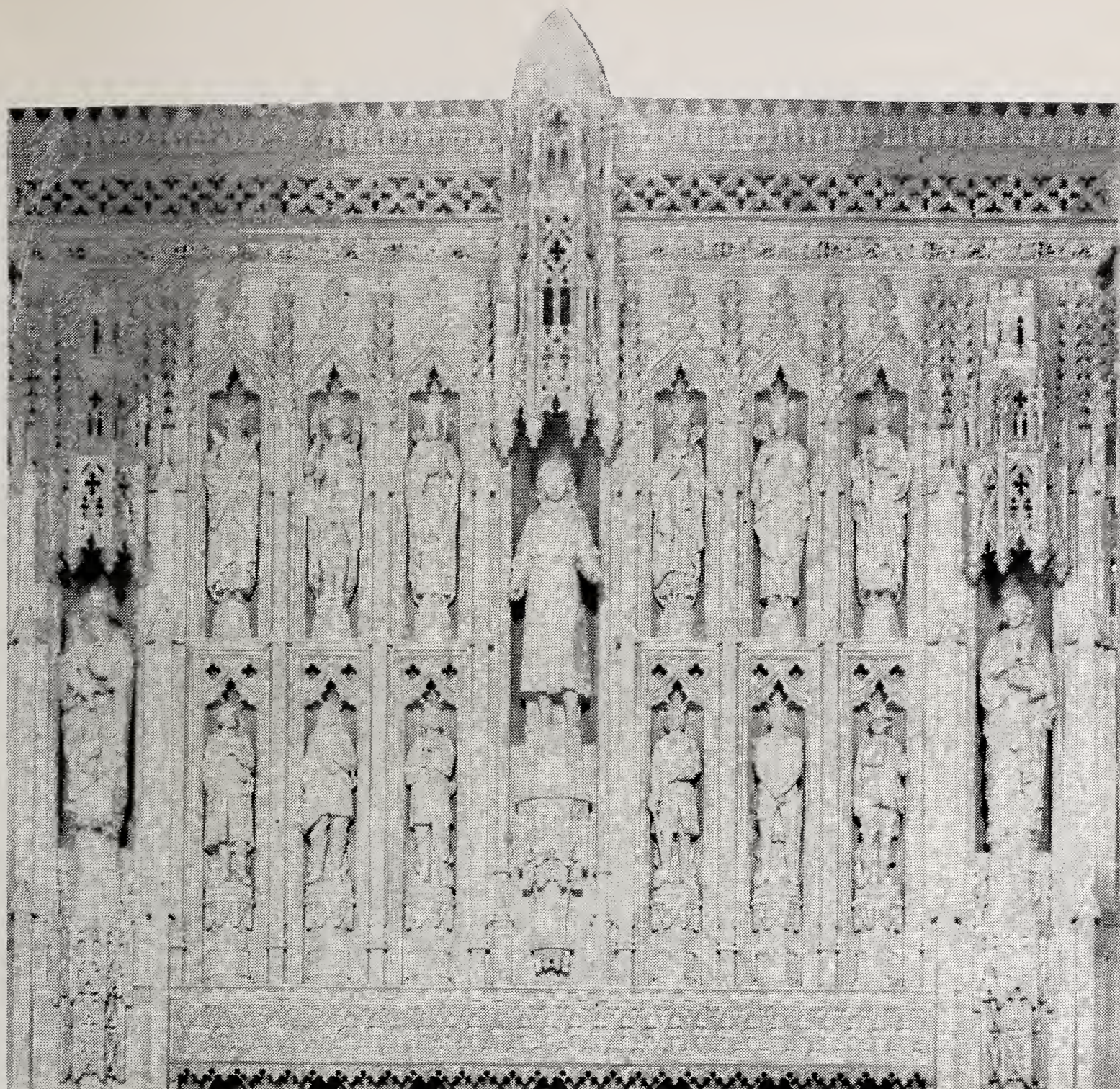
St. Andrew
(Scotland)

St. Patrick
(Ireland)

St. George
(England)

St. Denis
(France)

St. Joseph
(Belgium)



The Reredos



La Vérendrye

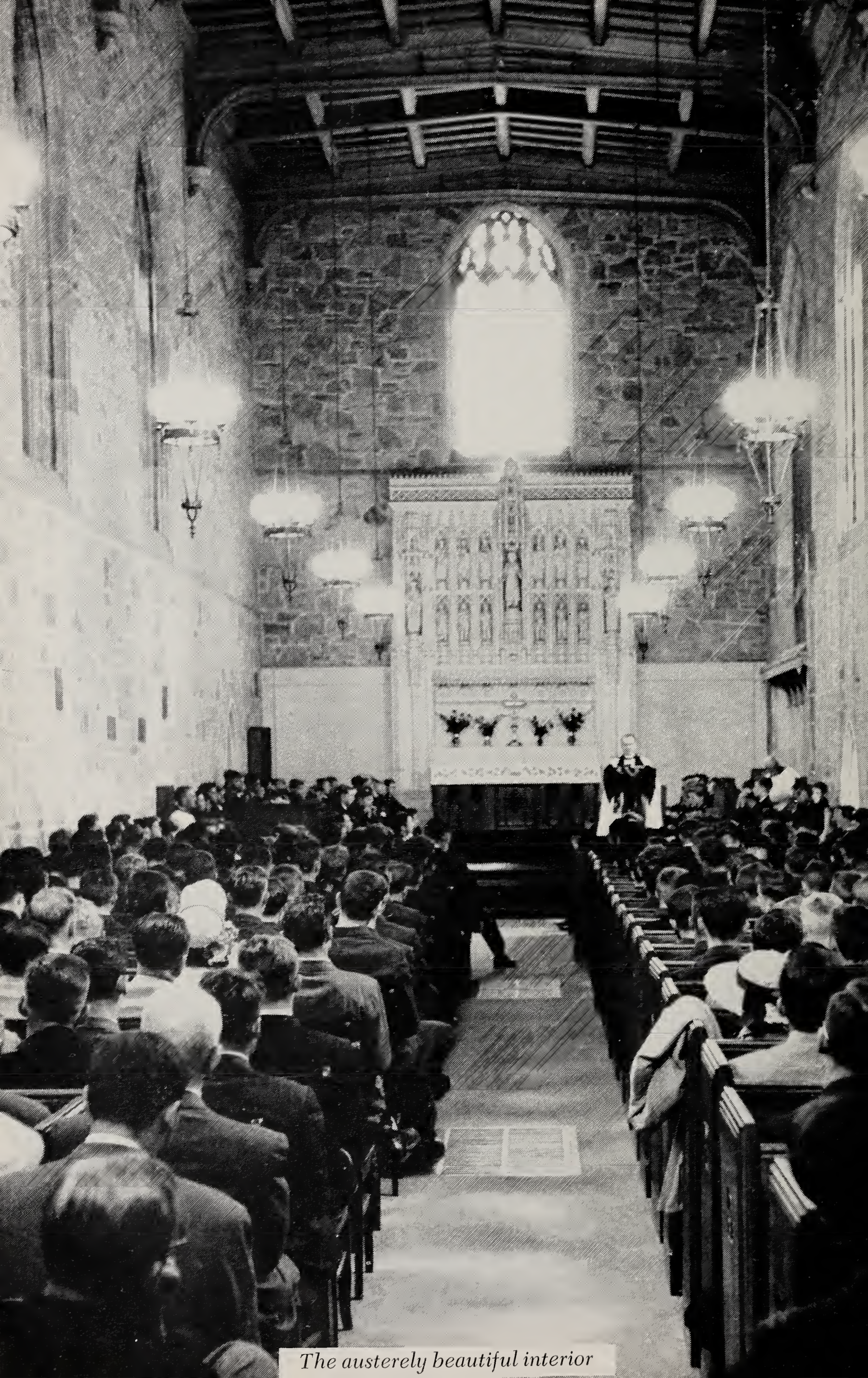
Cartier

LaSalle

Wolfe

Brock

Canadian
Soldier



The austere beautiful interior

Western Ontario Juniors who held the Junior Championship of the Province and beat them. They also did well against London Central who were intermediates.

Basketball probably came as close in 1923 to ousting hockey as Ridley's No. 1 winter sport as it ever did. The game was at least no longer a mere substitute for hockey and its enthusiasts no longer had to pray treasonable secret prayers for warm weather and poor ice to thwart hockey, to give them a better selection in players and, above all, a share of hockey's supporters. The School's boy-power was now enough to supply players for both games and the skill and success of the basketball teams had created a new body of vociferous fans.

Mr. Brock's personal enthusiasm and coaching skill had given the game a new permanent status; shortly, the basketball players would be playing-out the longest schedule of games of any Ridley sport.

The 1923 team's calibre, speed and well-practised pattern of play could not be maintained, but H. B. Soanes and E. R. Davey led the fine teams in 1924 and 1925 with Murray Snyder, a star of the latter year, when they again won all but a single game. As basketball technique improved with high scoring the common pattern, Ridley's teams kept pace.

Hockey could stand such competition, in both players and supporters. Its enthusiasts were electrified by the promise they saw in Upper Canada's agreement to play Ridley's first hockey team during three winters in succession. It was an historic development, but they were thwarted again; the significance they saw in the series of Little Big Four status for hockey was not there because the big Toronto school was busy with the schedule of a city league: the Ridley games could only be exhibitions. They were at last beginning to sense their inter-school games would probably never be anything else for another seemingly bright spot was dimmed in the same way; St. Andrew's accepted a hockey challenge, a tremendous event in Ridley's eyes; then the game was dropped. St. Andrew's was also too busy with its regular games in organized Toronto and area hockey.

In 1922, with five new colour men on Ridley's School hockey team, Rod (R. W. S.) Johnston, captain and goalie, led Ridley to 8 wins in a 14-game season. His team was not considered as strong as the three previous teams (led by Moore, Glass and Somerville) but they had fine sharpshooters in Bonny (Strachan) Bongard (30 points), Jack (J. A.) Millidge and Coop (N. M.) Cooper. Jawn (J. M.) Bright was a fine rushing defenceman. Rod Johnston would graduate before another hockey season, but it was predicted that Murray Snyder, playing goal for the second team, would surely win his colours to take his place in the nets. He was developing fast. Bonny Bongard would also make a fine team leader for next year.

All expectations proved themselves. Bongard's 1923 team, with three new

colours, beat Buffalo University twice and then was thrilled to play Upper Canada at St. Catharines. They won 4-3 and had the promise of a game the following year. The forecast on the goal-keeping skill of Murray Snyder was more than justified; after his first year on the School team, *Acta's* hockey reporter abandoned all reticence to say: "Without doubt Snyder is the best goal-keeper ever to represent Ridley in the nets!" He starred in every game and Ridley looked forward to a wonderful year in 1924.

Jack Millidge, the best shot on the team, was captain in '24 because Strachan Bongard graciously stepped down while still playing. Before the season opened the Old Boys were boasting that Ridley, with Snyder in the nets, would be unbeatable, but they then lost 4 of their 14 games and they wore extremely red Ridley faces in the environs of Upper Canada's rink. Ridley reserved their worst games of a poor year for an experienced U.C.C. team who overpowered their traditional rivals in football and cricket from the first face-off. Ridley lost, not once but twice to U.C.C., 1-2 and 5-0.

Six-man hockey had by now proved itself by inducing more passing and giving more room for displays of skilful stick-handling, though some rugged Old Boys declared that lack of body-checking was spoiling the game and that Ridley's players were too polite. It is true that the 1925 team was remarkable for its clean play; they had few penalties all season. They did well, winning 7 of their 11 games, with 2 tied and only 2 lost, but one of these 1925 losses was considered a horrendous catastrophe; a heavier, stronger U.C.C. team defeated Ridley 8-3. Murray Snyder who had done wonders in the nets all season failed to save them. It was such a dismaying thing that another St. Andrew's failure to keep a hockey date hardly mattered. *Acta's* hockey reporter scolded them tartly about their U.C.C. display: "The team representing Ridley was not in practice or good training. Little combination appeared. Comment is neither possible nor advisable." Two years of U.C.C. defeat were hard to take.

Their critics neglected to note that Ridley was icing its lightest team in years, that they only had three old colours of 1924: Snyder, captain, S. B. McCormack and Don Rogers and that they were forced to rely on speed and deft stickhandling. They excelled in such open, free-skating hockey but Upper Canada weight had finally told. They were body-checked into defeat.

In the meantime, something new and wonderful was developing in the Lower School. A fresh and rousing spirit of rivalry had been sparked between boys, between dormitories and between groups of boys. It had been achieved during this same winter by the introduction of the Tribes System which became a notable, almost invaluable part of school life. During 1925 Mr. Williams had decided to divide the Lower School into four groups, each one holding approximately the same number of boys and also an equal number of smaller and younger boys to keep them balanced, and then to set them against each other in general competition. Points would be given for games, leadership,

academic marks – almost anything. English-born like Dr. Miller, Mr. Williams was as interested as Ridley’s first headmaster had been in arousing a spirit of Canadian nationalism; that was why he turned to pure Canadiana to title his four divisions. Each was given the name of an Indian tribe – Algonquins, Hurons, Mohawks, Iroquois – with the captain of any tribe team the Chief.

His idea caught on immediately; his steadily enlarging Lower School needed a new spirit of internal competition and the Tribe system proved an inspiring medium of rivalry. There was tribal football and soccer earlier, but the School as a whole learned of the Lower School’s Indian tribes in the report of their first tribal war – on the ice.

THE TRIBAL HOCKEY LEAGUE: THE TEAMS

<i>Iroquois</i>	<i>Mohawks</i>	<i>Hurons</i>	<i>Algonquins</i>
Innes	McCarthy	Harris	Rogers
Kennedy	Powell	McConell	Atkinson
Cutbill	Wilkinson	Mackenzie I	Park I
Harper	Parker	Schmul	Acheson ma
Lyon	Shambrook	Kingsmill	Cronyn
Gooderham	Counsell	Beam	Barker

THE RECORD

	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>
Iroquois	3	0
Algonquins	2	1
Hurons	2	1
Mohawks	1	2

In addition there were junior tribe teams, the Papooses, who played their hockey on the outdoor rink – to their great disgust. (They protested so vociferously over the term “papooses” – Indian babies – that it was not used after the winter of 1925-6.)

As the Tribe system developed a stated number of points was awarded for each distinction a tribal warrior gained and for each activity in which he took a prominent role. Every colour a warrior won was also credited to his tribe. Interest in the competition was maintained throughout the year, with rivalry often intense. Here was the tribal standing after the end of the first term:

<i>Points Allotted</i>		<i>Mohawks</i>	<i>Hurons</i>	<i>Iroquois</i>	<i>Algonquins</i>
		<i>Score</i>			
3	Football captain	—	3	—	—
1	Vice-captain	—	—	1	—
5	Football colours	15	15	25	15
2	Football games won	8	4	2	8
2	Soccer games won	8	4	0	8

<i>Points Allotted</i>		<i>Mohawks</i>	<i>Hurons</i>	<i>Iroquois</i>	<i>Algonquins</i>
		<i>Score</i>			
5	1st in Cross-Country	—	5	—	—
3	2nd in Cross-Country	—	—	3	—
2	3rd in Cross-Country	—	—	—	2
1	4th in Cross-Country	—	1	—	—
5	each Prefect	5	—	5	5
3	each Choir Member	6	18	9	12
3	piano solos	—	—	3	3
		42	50	48	53

At this moment, the Hurons were hard on the trail of the Algonquins but the latter won at the end of the first full college year: 190 points to 144 for the Hurons who were second.

The Junior Cadet Corps was also divided into tribes, not platoons, each one roughly equalling the others in age and height.

It was doubtful if Mr. Williams realized even at the end of a full year just how valuable to school spirit his tribal system would prove. It inserted a new zest into each game and added importance to almost every phase of Lower School life. If it was not directly inspired as an antidote to the harmful pressures and influences on boys of these years, it worked that way. The Tribes, like cricket and the Cadet Corps, were the Lower School's private psychological insulation.

So many interesting things happened between 1922 and 1925 in both the Upper and Lower schools that only another recourse to nostalgic reviews by anonymous Old Boys can begin to do partial justice to them:

“Do you remember the golden year of 1922, when Ridley won the football championship? . . . We were just beginning to be reconciled to Friday night study. . . . One of the worst horrors then was reading the Lesson in chapel, especially when the page you had studied diligently for weeks was found to have vanished when you reached the lectern. . . . The visit of Sir Auckland and Lady Geddes. . . . The presenting by the Old Boys at their annual dinner of the portrait of Geo. H. Gooderham, the cigarette in his right hand later being painted out. . . . “Ughugh” Stringer winning the Cross-Country, and Bill Macy’s horrible matutinal struggle with the bugle in Gooderham House.

“The winter term was memorable due to the extraordinary length of time we had ice. . . . Mel Brock had his most outstanding basketball team to date: Ham, Gordon, Sanderson, Stringer, Davey, Inglis, winning eleven games out of twelve. . . . The boxing tournament high-light was when Millidge defeated Foster, although on good authority it is stated that Foster still (1949) questions the decision. This term is also remembered by the classic remark that the ‘Dean’s House still has the third best library’. . . . By Orme tipping the scales at 212. . . . By Mallory showing his ingenuity by electri-

fying door knobs, the touch of one rendering Dr. Smith 'hors de combat'. . . . Ridley defeated U.C.C. 4-3. . . . Freddie Biggar first struck oil at the broom factory. . . . Dr. Smith had a brush with the organ pipe.

"There is the sad remembrance of a most tragic event, the death of Marshal "Bogo" Inglis on May 21, a school-mate of sterling character and of outstanding athletic ability. Further memorable events: the engagements of Mel Brock and Miss Ansell, and of Miss Meiklejohn and Mr. Brockwell, also the titanic sprint between Bill Lennox and Mel Brock for a straw hat, Mel still insisting the starter's gun hung fire. . . . Peixotto talks himself into the prize for speaking. . . . Sir Henry Thornton visited the School. . . . Jack Sanderson won the sports day events, and Dr. Hoyles on prize day almost bites the dust.

"Remember the thrill of looking over the new kids and putting them to work learning the room plans, School songs, etc.? This was the term Sid Bett started taking over from Dr. Smith, and also started the Ridley choir, later to go high church in purple. . . . Ridley lost to St. Andrew's and the lean years began. . . . Plus-fours invaded the College. . . . Bob Turnbull won the second Edward Blake scholarship in mathematics. . . . Mr. R. Turnbull endowed a scholarship. . . . The farm buildings and mud started to go. . . . Lloyd George delivered himself of a harangue at the St. Catharines station. . . . Eddy Gorman wakes Ern. Powell closing his windows with a smash at 5 a.m.

"Everyone will remember Ernie Powell having the tussle with the local constabulary. . . . The drama was revived by Mr. Thomas, and after prodigious labour brought forth the epic *Box and Cox*, Hooker Bertram playing Mrs. Bouncer. . . . Davey of fabulous memory started baseball against the opposition of the gods. Other notable events: The Pirie-Foster bout of the boxing tournament. . . . Unveiling of the Colonel's portrait. . . . The Cadet Corps dance in February. . . . Peixotto went out in a cloud of smoke. . . . U.C.C. defeated us, 2-1.

"The Cadet Corps officers graduated (summer, 1924) into long pants and swords. The swords were soon discovered by Jock Heaman to be excellent for chastising the new kids and defaulters. To be smacked with a sword-flat was a distinction. This term will also go down in history for the daring exploit of the choir acting as strike-breakers at St. Thomas' Church. . . . Guthrie won the speaking contest but Davey's amazing parallel *The Prison is to the Country as the Fireside is to the Home* has placed him among the immortals. Other salient events of this period: The address by Sir Arthur Currie on Prize Day. . . . The death of Lt-Col. William Hamilton Merritt, M.D. . . . The first time matriculation was written at Ridley. . . . The Cricket team goes west. . . . The parade for the Colonel's birthday.

"Tragedy struck in the summer of '24 as that great old warrior, Col. Thairs, fought his last battle. Old 'Poof-Poof' will live forever in the memory of Ridleians. . . . Harper won the Cross-Country with Bob Innes one second behind. . . . Bill Macy graduated to cheerleader and Snyder's team won the cakes at soccer. . . . Mr. Wallace gets the range on the rink window and hurls a perfect strike. . . . Mr. Powell objects to 'Sparrow' Gray being held out of School House window by his heels (third floor). . . . Two similar events occurred when the macaroni factory burned down and the Cadet Corps dance took place. . . . Canon O'Meara, apparently a fugitive from a

Georgia chain gang, produced the chain in Chapel. . . . The furniture in the Masters' study mysteriously disappeared but 'Philo Vance' Davey went on the trail. . . . Milligan and Towers departed on a personal disappearance tour (so did the Principal as he searched Buffalo).

"Do you remember? Rowe returned for the second time to be nearly electrocuted eight days later in the Dean's House. . . . U.T.S. hockey team had a battle against frozen sheets in Gooderham House. . . . Phil McBean practised for the Cross-Country in a Christie, wind resistance being terrific.

"The School opened the year (1925) with the largest enrolment in its history. All members of the Staff returned, with an addition in the person of 'Bump' Hudson. . . . The new organ arrived and was dedicated by His Lordship, the Bishop of Niagara, on October 28. . . . Biggar's team won the soccer championship – Ridley 20, United Colleges 13. . . . Mrs. Powell gave a tea dance – ah me! those St. Catharines beauties. . . . Mel Brock, Jr., makes his *début*. . . . Albinson mi. arrives, all 250 pounds of him on the same train. Do you remember . . . The new fraternity, in one day, out the next? . . . Newman racing against time, after lights?"

There is no evidence there of delinquent youth or of a really serious deterioration in the behaviour of teen-aged boys, even if there seemed to be greater recklessness in their pranks. They were quick to risk a defiant flouting of authority. Ridley might have been remote from the worst influences of these heedless years, but her masters were constantly being tested.

In looking back to the end of the first half of the Roaring Twenties we do not think we have exaggerated the strain imposed on Ridley's two principals and their staff of masters by the insanity of the times. We have guarded against succumbing to the written and filmed impressions of recent years which can cause the period to be judged by its later over-dramatization. If the Crazy Decade had not been sandwiched between the period of prolonged war strain and the want and deprivation of the Great Depression, our later writers and dramatists and social commentators would not have been given such sharp contrasts to let them portray the period a little out of its true perspective. They forgot the vast numbers of people who continued to live quietly, a serious mistake. The extent of licentious living by a decadent older generation has been certainly exaggerated so far as Canada is concerned because the true proportion of adult decadency was fairly small. The wildness of youth – the Lost Generation – has been also overdone in later portrayal. There was a serious breakdown in respect for law by the ill-advised attempt to control human behaviour by unpopular legislation, but there was still a core of hard commonsense and steadfast conservatism in Canada to resist permanent harm. Many of us lived through the Roaring Twenties without serious contamination and many of the Lost Generation ultimately discovered they were not lost after all. A lot of the young, bold atheists in the universities became merely agnostics and by the time they were mature and balanced adults were a long way back on the return to faith.

Despite the truth of this, it was still only by the watchfulness and good judgment of Ridley's two principals that the basic soundness of the School was now being maintained. The challenge to Mr. Griffith and Mr. Williams was unquestionably severe, but the steady way in which the School moved through this difficult period was, as we said earlier, one of the fine features of the Ridley story. Many thankful parents knew that the general disruption in social values was having far less reaction on the boy-population of Ridley than on the student bodies of the public and high schools, in the cities especially.

It can be accepted with pride and satisfaction that Ridley's ideals and principles remained steadfast throughout the Roaring Twenties. Those principles were like a buffer of commonsense against the blare and jingle-jangle of a tinsel time.

Bizarre But Fruitful Years

"With a fine new Lower School, the new Gooderham House and their beautiful Memorial Chapel all now incorporated into school life, and with a capacity of 250 boarding boys, Ridley had reached another institutional time-post."

LIFE now seemed to speed by at Ridley with rare peacefulness for such a strident time, but wonderful things were continually occurring within the Ridley family to make the outside world's idiocies seem very small potatoes. Even in Ridley's most prosaic periods, bright facets of school life always had kept rising above classroom routine and house rules to capture the intense attention of the whole school; this did not fail them when they needed the normal preoccupation of schoolboys with their own affairs to help as insulation against outside influences. As in any family, their private triumphs and disasters and small excitements were still the things that mattered.

They would have been even more immune had it not been for the newspapers. Motion pictures were growing a little less lurid through the new Hays office, but nothing was checking the bad taste of the scare-headlines and the sensationalism of the public prints. If young Ridleians were remote from the world beyond their gates they still had to watch the goings-on. There seems no doubt that boys of 14 to 18 knew the period was not normal, even if they had not lived long enough to have the knowledge necessary for comparison with the past.

"Life at Ridley was not unlike being a spectator at a gigantic farce, with a seat far back and high up," related an Old Ridleian. "It was like looking down upon a distant stage where miniature adult puppets danced and pranced and went through outrageous antics. Our impressions for that scene largely came from the movies and the newspapers. There was New York night-life, Chicago gang wars and a lot of Hollywood mixed into it."

But just as the newspapers created these impressions, their very flamboyancy and sensationalism diminished their influence in serious matters. Few

editors appear to have yet noted it, but the power of the press was on the wane long before radio became a serious competitor in news dissemination. It was already evident in the scorn with which a Ridley boy viewed the seekers of front-page notoriety, with diminishing respect unconsciously forming for those who laid out the front pages. Perhaps part of the boys' own form of resistance to influences was in taking on a little extra reserve which revealed itself in their repugnance to a show-off. This was a type who could never be popular at Ridley, but now he was in one of the lowest of all categories into which boys place other boys. They had only a shrug of contempt for the more blatant publicity-seekers, like the marathon dancers, the Daddy Brownings baring shameful private lives to keep on the front page, and the Aimée Semple Macphersons making spectacles out of their weird cults and growing rich from the gullible crowds in their "temples". The boys were disgusted rather than attracted to the publicity stunt, masquerading as an athletic event, which was notorious as Pyle's Bunion Derby. This ridiculous cross-the-continent walking marathon never finished but it held the headlines for weeks. No one proposed introducing heel-and-toe walking at Ridley, a sure sign of the boys' derision, because few new sports were introduced which they did not tackle at least once.

Despite this Ridley trend which looked on ostentation and display with lordly contempt and which might have been smug had it not been so healthy, some of their own affairs now began to take on a spectacular touch. New athletic greats stepped out on the Ridley scene. Striking Ridley feats began to be added to the Little Big Four record book and their own sports chronicle. They were suddenly lashing out cricket centuries in clusters, not just singly, and a little later they were winning football championships for four years in a row (1927-31, with no championship declared in 1928).

These highlights in Ridley's life made no headlines; they were neither grotesque nor ostentatious and they did not flout the conventions. If they were spectacular to the Ridleians of the day it was not because they were infected with the mood of the times; their well-mannered cricket pitch was involved where flamboyancy is out of place. They were just Ridley's own highlights and thus important – such as the tremendous thing which now happened to "old boys" of the Lower School. They were astonished and chagrined to discover they were outnumbered by new boys. Such a crowd of new kids arrived when Ridley re-opened for the fall term in September, 1927, that the youthful old-timers found it difficult to adopt an all-knowing attitude. They did not quite know how to handle the situation.

Their brand-new Lower School was ready, to finish the postwar physical creation of virtually a new Ridley College. This development was also momentous to Ridley's governors and her two principals. With a fine new Lower School, a new Gooderham House and their beautiful Memorial Chapel all

now incorporated into school life, and with a capacity of 250 boarding students, Ridley had reached another institutional time-post.

COLONEL LEONARD'S MAGNIFICENT GIFT

THE story behind the gift to Ridley of a magnificent new Lower School and headmaster's residence by Col. R. W. Leonard dates back (in the records) to the opening gift of \$25,000 by Col. Leonard some time before (1922). This had been intended as an inducement; it was meant to encourage the raising of the large sum required to construct a complete new building. He refused to permit his \$25,000 to be diverted to other uses, such as a proposed expansion of the old chapel. But the inspiration for the memorable gesture by Col. Leonard which finally achieved the new Lower School actually had its roots in the deep and abiding affection which had grown up between Col. Leonard and Mr. Williams and was now of long standing. It was a close friendship based on sincere mutual regard, beginning from the time the donor settled in St. Catharines as engineer-in-charge of the DeCew Power plant for the old Dominion Power and Transmission Company, which in 1898 supplied electric power to the Hamilton Street Railway Company. Through all the years since, the friendship and affection between the schoolmaster and the engineer had strengthened and grown closer and stronger.

This must not imply that Mr. Williams frankly solicited the total gift of \$200,000 which Col. Leonard eventually provided for the new Lower School. He knew, of course, how seriously Mr. Williams wanted the new building, and sympathized with him. His insistence that his original nest-egg must be kept intact for a project close to his heart – and to Mr. Williams' heart especially – had induced the Board in 1923 to set it aside as the start of a special building fund; the School would make deposits to it until these equalled the original sum, with the whole then to be applied to the desired new building, if and when built. Mr. Williams then kept pressing the Board not to forget his recommendations on the need for a new Lower School each time the matter of expansion or Ridley's financial position was considered. His report in January, 1924, on the overcrowded situation and out-of-date condition of the Lower School generally, and a second detailed report the following November, made sure the matter would not be overlooked.

Serious planning had begun in 1924, when a committee, comprised of Col. Arthur Bishop, Mr. A. C. Kingstone, Mr. Griffith and Mr. Williams, was appointed to investigate the financial possibilities, and to report on requirements and costs. This led directly to Col. Leonard's magnificent total gift of \$200,000 for it was now apparent the money could not be raised in any other way.

The Board expressed its deep appreciation to Col. Leonard by asking Mr. Williams to write the donor on their behalf. The letter does not survive, but there can be no doubt of Mr. Williams' deep gratitude; his dream of a new Lower School was about to be realized through the generosity of his old friend.

The architectural firm of Marani, Lawson and Paisley was at work at once on plans. With Old Boy Ferdie Marani taking the design in hand, and working closely with Mr. Williams, both the donor and the General Board were confident that Ridley would have a wonderful addition. (*Postscript*: The new Lower School was the first Ridley building designed by the Marani architectural firm, which was destined to make a succession of fine additions to physical Ridley in the years ahead.)

Five different plans were presented by the architects, varying in cost from \$250,000 to \$350,000, with a sixth plan submitted later for a construction cost of \$280,000, with several features eliminated. When tenders were called and the construction contract was awarded to Newman Bros., St. Catharines, it was for \$310,000. (A final estimate of the total expenditure, made some time later, was \$400,000.)

Features eliminated from the earlier architectural plans included two elevators, a swimming pool in the basement and a separate residence for Mr. Williams. By the time the excavators had actually begun (September, 1926) the Board's decision against the residence was reversed. Mr. Williams' house was built.

Col. Leonard had made only one stipulation about the building which his gift was erecting. To quote from the letter from the Toronto General Trusts Corporation informing the Board of Col. Leonard's gift: "No sand or gravel taken from the shores of Lake Ontario should be used in the construction of the building." This was not explained; it has aroused much curiosity ever since, but it arose from Col. Leonard's desire to preserve the shoreline. The amount of clay which would be removed to obtain sand and gravel would have taken a long time for nature to replace it. He was a conservationist. He wanted the sand and gravel taken from inland deposits even at a slightly higher cost.

Through the generosity of Col. Leonard, Ridley soon had a Lower School which was an immense improvement on the original building of 1899. It was opened in 1927, to attract the record number of new boys. It contained eight 12-boy dormitories, each with its own washrooms, four 2-boy rooms; a bathroom with four baths for each two dormitories; excellent sick room accommodation; nurses quarters; a matron's suite; four suites for single masters; two extra suites for visitors; a fine office and reception room; a dining room wing including a staff dining room, plus kitchens and servants' quarters; two libraries; two common rooms; two playrooms; and, in the basement, locker, shower and store rooms and another large playroom. In addition,

there was Mr. Williams' separate residence. Mr. W. T. Comber was appointed his assistant, and assigned to his former residence.

With new, modern accommodation and lots of elbow room for 100 boarders in the Lower School and 150 in the Upper School, Ridley now had the student capacity which many discussions between the governors, Dr. Miller and his senior staff had settled upon during the war as ideal at this period for a preparatory boys' school in Ontario. Individual instruction and close association between masters and boys could be maintained and, at the same time, the School could be operated with greatly improved teaching and boarding facilities. When more expansion came, everything would be consolidated.

Some sentimental Old Boys protested mildly and watched the larger Ridley developing with a regret that had more nostalgia in it than logic. They remembered the happy intimate relationships within a Ridley which had one hundred boarders in all – or less if they were pre-1900 – and felt this represented a quality too valuable to be discarded. But there would be little change in individual attention to boys by the masters; there would be more boys but there also would be more classes and more masters in a Ridley of 250 or more students. The gain by the larger college was unquestionable; it meant financial ability to provide broader preparatory education and the means to add many things to school life which a small school must forego.

These advantages would continue to loom importantly as Ridley grew larger still in the years ahead.

Ridley had always admitted boys under 14 because the wisdom of training young Ridleians from the time they were still at their most impressionable age had always been seen. Harry Griffith had been only 11 years of age in 1889, for instance. In the Nineties, the advantage had seemed so important that Ridley determined such younger boys should have a school of their own, the first Canadian independent school to follow the policy. Its justification had proven itself over and over since Headmaster Miller had first pressed for a separate junior school back in 1898. In another year it had been done, with Mr. Williams appointed vice-principal of Ridley and placed in charge of the Junior School. It was recalled in 1928 that in 1898 it had not been a unanimous policy of the Board of Directors. When the first Lower School was built across the canal from Springbank, on Ridley's present site, one director had exclaimed to Headmaster Miller: "Well, you have ruined Ridley College!" But before long he, too, was convinced that accepting a boy under 14 and training him until he was ready for university had great advantages – for the boy. The new modern building of which Mr. Williams was so proud was thus merely developing a school concept which had been accepted as sound many years before.

Styled in early Georgian (time of William and Mary) the new Lower School was a departure from the Tudor Gothic design of Gooderham House,

but it was constructed to be fireproof and merged well into the general architectural atmosphere of the other school buildings. Apart from its design it was constructed as soundly as Gooderham House, and that was sound indeed, for nothing at Gooderham House had been skimped. The handsome new Ridley building was 300 feet long. Its attractiveness was enhanced by the principal entrance and the two archways which admitted the boys to an inner quadrangle, 160 feet by 90 feet. The boys gained admittance to their houses at either side. Its front looked across the broad campus toward the Upper School. It faced inward, like all Ridley buildings, with its classrooms at the rear facing Westchester Avenue (now Ridley Road).

It was not long before *Terar Dum Prosim* was carved in stone above the entrance to the fine new building, and that institutional impressiveness was given to the interior by two of John Russell's oils. This outstanding Canadian painter was commissioned to paint Mr. Williams, the portrait to hang in the dining room, and his earlier painting of Col. Leonard was presented to Ridley by Mrs. Leonard. It was hung in the front hall. Nearby a tablet was erected to record that the new Lower School stood as the result of the generosity of Col. and Mrs. Reuben Wells Leonard. But in the way of all such formal plaques it could never convey an adequate conception of the many generous acts toward Ridley by Col. Leonard, of which the gift of the Lower School was but one, if the most striking of them all.

We have already referred to Col. Leonard's establishment during the war of the Leonard Foundation, to provide scholarships and bursaries, and later there was to be such extensive bequests to the School by his will, after his death in 1930, that even his \$200,000 gift was overshadowed. Ridley's entire position in scholarships and bursaries would be transformed, with a lasting benefit to the School.

Mr. Williams' original impression that the Leonard gift would create the new departure of an Intermediate but not a new Lower School had been dispelled when the architects were first consulted and he was given the details. His Lower School would just incorporate intermediate grades. Its work would be extended to include Third Form courses but only for boys who completed their Lower School forms at an earlier age than the average. The intention was to keep the age-groups together, even if this meant similar courses paralleling each other in the two schools. The younger group, including new boys, would complete their Third Form work with boys of their own age in the Lower School's Sixth and would then enter Upper School via its Fourth Form.

Mr. Williams' face glowed with excitement and happiness as his new school came alive with a total of thirty-seven new boarders, all arriving on that first day of the fall term of 1927. The Lower School's total roll for its first term was eighty, comprised of sixty boarders, plus nineteen day-boys

and one day-girl – Joan Griffith, daughter of the Principal of the Upper School.

It was obvious that the main and local boards of directors and governors, and also the shareholders until they ceased to be part of the administrative body in 1924, had concerned themselves for a long period with a steadily expanding and successful enterprise. Success was to continue to sustain a spirit of optimism to such an extent that Ridley's favourable financial position in 1929 would lead the Board to plan another new dormitory with sublime confidence, though late that year the world was struck by an historic economic disaster. But when a new dormitory was first proposed during 1927 and 1928 the idea seemed sound. Ridley was seriously overcrowded by 1928 in the light of a school planned for 250 boys. There was nothing in Ridley's situation in either year to counsel caution.

More intimately related to student affairs were anxious discussions on what to do about certain runaway boys. Other problems were to decide whether or not the Anglican Church should be given the use of Ridley buildings for a summer school (which was done); how to help finance the cricket tours and how to persuade the Ontario Department of Education to hold its matriculation examinations later in the year, and what should be done about "a more uniform dress for Upper School boys". Nothing serious was done about the latter but the small boys of the Lower School again had the Eton jacket inflicted on them, the re-adoption being by official order. But the larger and older boys who objected fiercely to the Eton collar would be permitted to wear Marlborough sack coats.

A lot of things always happened, of course, which never reached the ears of either the Board or the Headmaster. The masters in their classrooms and the housemasters liked to handle their disciplinary problems themselves. Broken house rules, episodes in class, trouble in a dormitory or clashes with young rebels and mischief-makers were treated as private matters of control. Ridley's masters and housemasters were generally quite capable of handling their own problems, though each had his own method of winning co-operation and peace. In these days all theories and practices of school discipline were under severe test because Ridley seemed to have so many "characters" to keep life interesting.

Mr. Ernie Powell who was mild, but firm kept control with ease through being liked and respected, but in all the years he had been in charge of School House no boy tried him so sorely as the boy all knew as Babe, just now No. 1 character of School House. One night Babe used his bed as a trampoline, trying to jump to the ceiling, when – crash! – the leg of his bed went through the floor! There was far more consternation below than in the dormitory; Miss Boyd, the Matron, lived underneath; she was so startled she had Mr. Powell rush upstairs to see what in the world was going on.

"Who is doing the song and dance up here?" Mr. Powell asked quietly as he walked in. It was impossible to hide the broken bed or the gaping hole, so Babe resignedly disappeared with Mr. Powell to receive his punishment. Babe never revealed what it was.

The same Babe was an inveterate smoker, a crime punishable by a Headmaster's caning, which proved no cure at any time. Babe went on risking a few puffs, continually being trapped by tell-tale cigarette fumes; he sometimes swore that some masters and prefects could catch the whiff even on another floor. No place was safe. One night Babe mystified the entire school. A watchman in the still-empty new dormitory which was shortly under construction heard strange hammerings in a cupboard. Ghosts? No; Babe, who was more startled than the watchman when the cupboard door was yanked open. As soon as the captive was recognized the watchman sniffed in the cupboard for the smell of smoke. No; Babe had not been smoking. What was he doing there? He had a chisel and hammer and quite a hole had been gouged out of the wall. Building a secret cache? Starting a tunnel for a secret escape route? Babe refused to say; he let the conjecture flow on while he underwent his punishment for being out of his dormitory at night. Later, Babe cleared up the mystery for a friend: "I was just making a built-in draft – to carry away cigarette fumes. That cupboard will be a wonderful place for a smoke."

In these days Mr. Hamilton's temper was a useful deterrent. He had not yet mellowed; it could still be explosive. One of his pet detestations was bad language, which meant constant trouble for another "character", a boy called Goosey whose vocabulary was often a bit barnyardy. One day Mr. Hamilton walked past a dormitory door and heard Goosey swearing again. The Hamilton temper erupted. He hustled Goosey into his study with a rush and gave him "four on each". A little later Goosey was in his dorm, muttering to himself as he soothed his hands in a basin of hot water, when Hammy came in and began to apologize for his precipitant action. Goosey looked up slowly from his basin in great disgust.

"Well, this is one hell of a time to tell me that!" he exclaimed.

Whoosh! The Hamilton temper exploded again. Goosey was rushed once more – by the scruff of his neck – into Hammy's study and given "two more on each".

Goosey still felt impertinent when he encountered Mr. Hamilton in the hall a little later, but he was elaborately careful of his language. He shrank against the wall and said, "Goodness gracious sakes alive, now don't tell me you're sorry." It was rough on Hammy for he was inherently kindly and undoubtedly was sorry.

"If Hammy's temper was something to be reckoned with, it also got results," recalled an Old Boy, a resident of Dean's House at the time. "While it

does not agree with modern thought on teacher-scholar relationships, the majority of Hammy's students passed their examinations with a rare ratio of high marks. They were scared stiff of having to face Hammy's wrath if they failed."

The laziest "character" Ridley probably ever knew, in the opinion of the new boys, was now present. A fat boy called Biffo, he won the disapproval of both the prefects and junior boys because he threatened to undermine the time-honoured custom of slobbing (also still called fagging, if only by masters). Biffo was so lazy he'd lie on his bed bawling for a new boy; when one arrived he'd tell him to turn over the record on his turntable gramophone within reach of his hand. After the first time the younger boys refused to believe it – not even a fat, indolent senior could be that lazy! They chanced sneaking along the hall to watch the performance. This was risky; a junior entered a flat where seniors resided by waiting at the end of the hall for permission. This proved Biffo's undoing; a prefect investigated the small-boy traffic and in discovering the reason was highly indignant at such evidence of the fat boy's laziness. Biffo was not only told to turn over his own records but lost his slobbing privileges for a while. (*Postscript*: Influenced by a radio programme, a junior when about to enter a senior's flat might dare use a senior's call for a new boy: "Information, please." The seniors called this insolence: the traditional "Permission, please," was soon restored.)

The way of a master with boys is always important and in these times a firm hand was valuable. The key to the success of any master – or leader – is respect, regardless of how it is won. Thoughtful masters generally developed a code of their own.

Mr. C. E. H. Thomas, who taught classics and who had been at Ridley since 1912, less time out for war service, was called Twa Thomas by the boys of Dean's House where he was the admired housemaster. His way with boys was illustrated on the first night of the new term in September, 1928. He walked into a dormitory which held twelve new boys, all strangers to him and also to each other. They were just going to bed, still eyeing each other warily as boys do until they are acquainted.

"Aren't you going to say your prayers, boys?" asked Twa quietly.

There was a long, embarrassed silence which no boy wished to break. Then Mr. Thomas said, still quietly: "Well . . . don't you get down on your knees?"

Only the direct suggestion was required.

"It's a funny thing," recalled Graham MacLachlan years later, "but for the rest of my time at Ridley, all of those twelve boys in that dorm said their prayers on their knees every night, without embarrassment."

In any Old Boys' gathering, here are memories heard from these years:

"Remember the winter of '26 and glorious 1928? . . . Volleyball invaded the School and a Prefects' League of six teams was formed. . . . A ghost



The New Lower School: Opened September, 1927



THE BOYS OF THE LOWER SCHOOL, 1926



A VISIT TO NIAGARA FALLS

stalked through Gooderham House and blew eerie notes on a bugle at 2.15 a.m. . . . Mrs. Hamilton comes to Ridley. . . . Buchanan wins again, defeating Chapple for third straight heavyweight championship . . . no School dance. . . . The detention book disappeared and Mr. Ashburner hit the trail. . . . A lean spring for cricket. . . . Stringer waxed enthusiastic about the Yukon and pulled down first prize in the Speaking Competition. . . . The Prince of Wales on tour. . . . Don Rogers and Dunc Clark compete in facial foliage. . . . Charlie Thompson and Dunc Clark tied for the Senior Championship.

“Remember the gallantry displayed by George McBean in drowning while trying to save a friend? Another hero was born to Ridley in his death. . . . Remember Don Webber with his home-made diving helmet in the tank? . . . Archie Mix was married and we lost a duty master. . . . Sir Alan Cobham talked on aviation and still another Stringer won the Cross-Country and, oh yes, the new playing field behind the rink was finally used.

“Remember the Ridley fire in School House, with Albinson on a ladder with a fire hose and Chris Robinson with an axe? . . . The Hamiltons had a daughter. . . . Portraits of Colonel Leonard and Mr. Williams presented to the School. . . . The boxing competition highlighted by Ernie Fischer’s win over Spark Bell and Tony Marston’s great victory over George Gooderham in the best bout of the finals.”

Memories are rich and crammed with fun and diversity from all this period. They were full and exciting school years.

It was now that the various funds for scholarships and prizes were consolidated into a single trust fund. From time to time gifts and arrangements for scholarships had been made, with the prevailing system of a separate fund for each growing more and more cumbersome. The following are notes from the Board’s minute-book between 1922 and 1929 which illustrate the complication:

In November, 1922, a letter was received from Mrs. E. F. Blake and her children, enclosing \$1,000 to perpetuate the two (Lower School) Gerald Blake Memorial scholarships.

In December, 1923, a parent, Mr. Turnbull, set up a scholarship as a tribute of appreciation in behalf of his sons, one of whom, Robert, had won three university scholarships.

In January, 1924, Mr. A. W. Taylor offered badminton nets and posts.

In September, 1925, Old Boy George Tuckett, who had been giving annual prizes on Sports Day, founded academic prizes also.

In February, 1927, the father of Old Boy, the late Clarence Langley, made a gift of an endowed scholarship to be received by the School on the death of Mrs. Langley.

In 1929, the Katharine Alexander Scholarship was announced, in memory of Mrs. J. O. Miller.

The consolidation of so many into a single fund was probably long overdue. The gifts of the Women’s Guild – cushions and rugs and a handsome sedilia – were adorning the chancel when the new Memorial Chapel was the

scene for the first time of Ridley's Confirmation Sunday (April 18, 1926). Bishop Derwyn T. Owen performed the rite, with a record number of boys confirmed – thirty-four of them. Such a large number of relatives and friends of the boys arrived in beautiful April weather to swell the congregation and to hear His Lordship's impressive sermon, that a working party of boys was sent for chairs to be placed in the aisle.

This first ceremony of Confirmation disclosed for all visitors how the long-desired chapel had brought to reality the dream of Ridley to be self-contained in all her functions, even as the chapel magnificently enhanced the physical beauty of Ridley and also emphasized once more the School's serious religious attribute. Each time the Old Boys would visit their school in the years to come, to be installed in comfortable quarters in their own wing of Gooderham House or later in the Dean's House or the hospital, the Memorial Chapel invariably warmed them with quiet satisfaction. This was almost visible on their proud faces as they assembled each year on a Sunday in early November for the Annual Memorial Service to Ridley's war-dead. They felt this would be the most important yearly service the chapel would see. Many distinguished clerics took part as time wore along, with the service primarily commemorating the former boys of the School who had given their lives in war but also all Old Ridleians who had passed to the Great Beyond, whether in peace or war.

The most moving part of the service on each Memorial Sunday was always the reading aloud of the names of Ridley's dead in the long silence by Principal Griffith. In 1926, just after the calling of the names in that great Roll of Honour, the Reverend C. E. Riley, Rector of St. George's Church, St. Catharines, quoted these now well-known lines by Lawrence Binyon (which Principal Griffith frequently used thereafter):

*They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We shall remember them.*

In 1928 – ten years after the Armistice – the Boys' Choir was dressed in ecclesiastical purple cassocks and white surplices. The cassocks were made by the ladies of St. Barnabas Church, St. Catharines; they were purple to signify that the chapel was under the ecclesiastical direction of the Bishop of Niagara who appointed Ridley's chaplains. On this day the visitors were so many that they overflowed into the cloisters after filling all extra seats in the aisles. This time Canon Riley followed the Calling of the Roll with Winifred Lett's *Spires of Oxford*:

*God rest you, happy gentlemen,
Who laid your good lives down,
Who took the khaki and the gun
Instead of cap and gown.
God bring you to a fairer place
Than even Oxford Town.*

The School never failed except in very rare years to commemorate Remembrance Day itself as a holy day and not a holiday. At 10.30 a.m. on each November 11 a service of prayer would begin, timed to end as the *Last Post* bugle would break the pregnant silence exactly at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. (The muted *Last Post* was often missing because it was a difficult bugle call for Ridley's novice buglers.)

*Perhaps you try to speak to us as we
Today, stand silent in your memory.*

*Oh, ye who died to start us on the road
Come back again and help us with our new load
Of racial hate; lead us to the abode
Of peace, the quiet happy land of God.*

– *Acta Ridleiana*

The chapel which meant so much to the Old Boys would also always be viewed possessively by the cadets of each Ridley period to come. They felt it was an imposing monument to the Corps itself and its war-founded tradition of service. To them the Roll of Honour seemed to symbolize this as it was called over on each Remembrance Day. The Corps was not separating itself from the School; the chapel just consolidated the new meaning which the war had given to Ridley's Cadet Corps. The chapel's quiet dignity was a sort of tangible anchor to the Corps' morale which was at a wonderful level all through the disturbing 1920s. (*Postscript*: In 1926 Ridley's cadets had been seriously disappointed in themselves. An exciting military tournament took place in Toronto's University Avenue Armouries and the C.N.E. Coliseum, with the Corps in competition with the cadets of the schools of the Little Big Four. Ridley did not come home with a trophy. The cadets of Trinity College School won in both military drill and the P.T. demonstration. In consolation, Capt. Iggulden said he was proud of them: "It was the long-arm balance which was our downfall in the P.T. drill." The Old Boys stoutly declared Ridley's cadets were the smartest of all the corps in the mass march-past of cadets in the C.N.E. Coliseum.)

The chapel's atmosphere of quiet reverence had been deepened by the number of memorial windows which had now been installed, each testifying

to the success of modern stained-glass craftsmen in recapturing the rich translucent colourings of the Gothic glass makers of the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries which had been lost. (Examples of their work can be still seen in the cathedrals of Salisbury, Chartres and Rheims, with glass of the Middle Gothic period in those of York, Ely and Oxford.) The revival of the art had made Ridley's chapel windows magnificent with their warm, mellow richness of colour and design. During the annual Memorial Service of 1928 the Lord Bishop of Niagara dedicated the A. A. Porter memorial window; it joined the four earlier windows: the Robert Gordon Jardine and St. Catharines Old Boys' windows, the first two installed; the Alan Ferrier Gates window with its striking centrepiece of a ruby-red cross and figure of Christ, and the Van R. Irvine memorial window which was based on figures of the three great Protestant martyrs, Latimer, Ridley and Cranmer. Two small windows in the porch were now also of stained glass, the Lt. Herbert Cust Boyd and Marshall Inglis memorial windows.

The institutional dignity and maturity of Ridley was also impressed on visitors by the number of oil paintings which were now hanging in the School. At the Old Boys' annual dinner at Toronto in December, 1926, the affection of all Ridleians, young and old, for Principal H. G. Williams was manifested by the presentation to him of an oil of himself by John Russell. It was hung in the Lower School, as mentioned earlier.

The most recently installed oil in the dining room had been that of Lt.-Col. George Thairs until, in 1928, Mrs. Mason bequeathed to Ridley the oil of her late husband, J. Herbert Mason, who had been president of Ridley from 1900 to 1912 and whose great inspiration, the Manliness Gold Medal, remained the highest accolade the School could bestow on a boy. It was by Sir Wyly Grier, R.C.A. (Please see Appendix F-a for the various locations of the pieces in Ridley's fine collection of oils and other art work.)

ACTA RIDLEIANA IS "MODERNIZED"

IF THERE had still been no sharp alteration in Ridley's academic or disciplinary pattern due to the dual principalship, *Acta Ridleiana* was steadily mirroring the changes which follow growth. Beginning in 1922 tribute was paid to the new autonomy of Mr. Williams' Lower School by allotting a permanent position at the back of each issue for an exclusive report on its affairs and activities. The section was given its own Index and Term Diary, further to emphasize the Lower School's independent status.

By this time, too, *Acta* was regularly incorporating special house sections for notes from Gooderham House, the Dean's House and the School House, with the news section of the Old Boys also retained. It was at once evident

that the new house reports were going to add bright, breezy material from various witty pens to the School's journal to avert danger of stuffiness. These items are from 1927 issues:

Dean's House Notes: Dear Editor: I cannot tell you much about the Upper Chamber of this House, as I have only been up there on certain occasions, which I should like to forget. We have, however, the Captains of the First and Second cricket teams and three other members of the First.

One of these is a Third Former, and we are very proud of him.

We have, too, three members of the Theatrical Society, including Jane herself. In athletic sports we did well. Little won the mile, Thompson is senior ex-champion.

As you well see by my signature, we have learned to count in what is usually thought to be a dead language.

— *Onus*

Gooderham House Notes: If the writer had the wit and literary ability—prose and poetical—of Malone and Yates, he would not hesitate to write these notes. . . .

John O'Flynn got his First Eleven Colours and was certainly worthy of them. . . . Neeland who lives on the Top Flat, won the Junior Championship. . . .

We had eleven boys in the house not in the Fourth Form, and this is what they did: W. H. Sims won the Mason Medal; A. V. Malone won the Singing Prize; G. K. Masters won the Junior Matriculation Medal; O'Flynn won the Boyd Memorial Prize (general proficiency in VIB) and the Merritt Prize for Public Speaking, and Wallace won the Diligence Prize. We don't want to boast, but . . .

— *Et nunc, post laborem otium*

School House Notes: Two of our dormitories, Cosy Corners, where the fire was located, Palais Royal, and Mrs. Murray's suite were the main points of attack in the recent fire. The inmates of the dormitories were forced out, some sleeping in the Lower School for a few nights, while others occupied rooms in homes downtown. . . . Special attention should be called to the splendid work of our noble masters, some even in white flannels, in clearing floors of surplus water, carrying fire hose here and there and smashing in the plaster.

We are proud of our heavyweight champion, Chris Robinson, and Julius Edwards, the strongest little man in the world, both of whom occupy rooms in our first flat.

The fire mentioned in the School House Notes could have been serious. By chance, a boy returning to his dormitory for a forgotten book discovered it burning between the ceiling and roof of the School House. It was above *Cosy Corners*, which was burnt out, with *Palais Royal* below rendered uninhabitable by water. The damage totalled several thousands of dollars. Only two masters were at Ridley who had experienced the fire in 1903 which had de-

stroyed the School's original home on the other side of the canal, but it was an historical time-mark which all knew. In the thought of what might have happened if the comparatively minor fire above *Cosy Corners* had been more serious, the wisdom of building separate dormitories was evident. The houses were separated enough that total destruction should never be the result of a future fire. ("No, you are certainly not going home," said the Principal to the boys of the burnt-out dormitories.)

There were some Old Boys who felt the new format of the journal incorporated too many divisions of school detail, with deterioration in *Acta's* impression of Ridley as a whole. Complaints were heard from critical Old Boys that all these regular reports meant a reduction in schoolboy fiction and articles. They lamented wistfully that since the war *Acta Ridleiana* had become too sophisticated, too professional, too well edited and had lost the schoolboy touch. They said it was smug and all but self-righteous. They meant that in the "good old days" the editors deliberately overlooked awkward construction and signs of literary immaturity in order to allow the brave offerings of youngsters to appear (more or less) in their natural state. They were also critical that only masters now appeared on *Acta's* masthead as editors, with the names of student sub-editors eliminated. The last list of these had been of the boys who helped produce the fine issue of midsummer, 1923 which reported the dedication ceremony of the Memorial Chapel: E. G. F. Arnott; E. H. Botterell; G. J. Cliff; C. O. Fairbank; P. A. Gardner; N. K. Gordon; N. L. C. Mather; W. D. Matthews; G. F. Osler; H. R. Perkins; J. K. D. Sims; R. Turnbull; W. E. Weaver and A. M. Walker.

In time the names of the boys would be prominent once more; *Acta* was just going through one of its many phases.

Such reactions were merely posing for the editorial board a production and editorial problem which all school journals encounter and which are also always complicated by the disciples of the *status quo* among the Old Boys – and what Old Boy isn't one in his heart where his school is concerned? A policy decision seemed to be demanded, with the viewpoint of the Old Boys weighting the scale on one side and that of Ridley's senior boys on the other. The schoolboy touch had given way to growth – of a much larger proportion of senior boys. Right or wrong, they were first of all concerned with the appraisal and judgment of *Acta Ridleiana* by the readers in their rival preparatory schools in Ontario and scores of other schools on the exchange list. Their term for the schoolboy touch which was so mourned by nostalgic Old Boys was juvenility, and they wanted none of it. The masters who were editors must have agreed. The grumblers perhaps missed the fact, however, that the journal had been recently increased in size to seventy, sometimes eighty pages, and once to ninety-eight pages, which meant much additional space available for informative articles and general Ridley features. (*Post-*

script: When *Acta Ridleiana* was given a new, modern “face” in 1929, with the atmosphere achieved of a professional publication, only praise was heard from the Old Boys.)

They may also have failed to note that *Acta* had been growing more polished and professional for some years and that it was now reflecting the life of not only a larger, but a more mature school. As time moved along, and Ridley grew still larger and more mature, the atmosphere of *Acta* kept pace, sensibly and always with value. If it sometimes was inclined to be too stiff and correct, the wits of the new house reports were a saving grace. *Acta* sometimes briefly had a professorial tone and was occasionally vulnerable to a charge of being highly respectable but frightfully dull, but its editors consistently resisted foolish affectations and seriously tried to record Ridley’s highlights, if they seldom succeeded in mirroring her changing moods. But her changing interests were there, and there is applause due to the successive editorial boards for always recognizing that the journal’s correct role was to portray the character and reflect the life of Ridley at the time of each issue and to be satisfied with meticulous editing and lucid, intelligent articles, reports and commentaries. Many a school journal has been marred by such obvious straining by its editors to display their erudition and to create an intellectual aura that the result in palpable pseudo-intellectualism was often painful, even a little ridiculous.

Submissions of humour to the editors had filled many a waste-basket since the school journal first appeared on the Ridley scene. Through the years a joke or a short humorous jingle would often be used as “filler” material. Intermittently, a collection of jokes had appeared but without regularity, as the editors learned by painful experience that a succession of printed alleged jokes can be boring, while a single piece of wit can bring a good guffaw or at least a chuckle. This is not, of course, true if a collection of jokes and jibes involves familiar people or episodes which explains *Acta*’s frequent experiments with a gossip column. The House Notes were such features. Their items were read as avidly by the boys as the social notes in a country weekly. They would have liked more good-natured “razzing” of masters and prefects and more frequent cryptic references to illegal episodes or excursions. It would have helped maintain reader-interest among the boys. Also, it would have the tendency to prevent any humourless editor from taking himself too seriously. The following are random, but a bit too rare items of this kind from the boys’ house reports:

“We are assured that contrary to public belief, Mr. Wallace was NOT hiding behind the lockers when he obtained information which led to the dissolution of a midnight symposium and the apprehension of the toaster.”

“The young men who are attempting to produce moustaches should form a school branch of the House of David.”

"Someone ought to put the fights in the kitchen on a commercial basis."

"Sept. 15, 1928: Mr. Brock's Great War chariot fell apart at an altitude of 10 feet. This is 5 feet higher than his previous record."

One reason the master-editors were wary of the House Notes arose from the occasional instance of the use of a risqué term which the boys all understood but the masters did not. Letters from parents, who also knew the meaning, had left red faces among the masters (and gleeful culprits).

After the war *Acta's* master-guide had been reckless enough to defy the conviction of many editors that a joke book is the most boring of all printed documents; a Jester's Page was introduced. Its editors even had the temerity to identify themselves: S. O. Greening and J. L. Maw though the names of no other student sub-editors were revealed.

It required courage because Greening and Maw had a critical audience which could be highly vocal and very blunt when some hilarious oral joke fell inexplicably flat when told by the printed word, as many jokes contrarily do. However, Humour Editors Greening and Maw may have found their Jester's Page rewarding; they applied good taste; they avoided double-meaning, over-sophistication or too juvenile a tone and had learned the secret: brevity. Some of their jokes of the 1926-7 period still make enjoyable reading. Sample:

Proud father, to son returned from school: "Do you ever talk about your parents at school, John?"

"Yes, dad."

"Did you tell them that I'm a lawyer?"

"Yes, I told one of my pals, and he was really jolly decent about it."

Interesting historical footnotes to the Ridley countryside had been appearing in *Acta Ridleiana* for some time under a series title: *Historic Spots Near Ridley*. The whole Niagara area was studded with sites from the stirring times of its early history. At Easter, 1927, William Lyon Mackenzie's Printing House was featured; before the brief rebellion he had published his *Colonial Advocate* in the little stone shop on the Queenston road within sight of the river, to assail the Family Compact. The account did not say so, but Mackenzie, the grandfather of the current prime minister of Canada (W. L. M. King), had also printed here three issues of *The Welland Canal*, a weekly produced just to attack the Welland Canal Company and its President Merritt who had unwisely made Mackenzie a director of the company. If the Little Rebel was right in condemning the Family Compact, he was wrong to satirize a letter to President Merritt from Chief Justice Robertson on the future of the canal. A copy of the issue based on this letter is preserved. The Chief Justice had written: "If the Welland Canal now gives a return of £4,000, to doubt whether it will in a few years pay £25,000 is no more

reasonable than to doubt whether a calf, if it lives, will become a cow." On the basis of future value to the country of the Welland Canal this calf bred a whole herd of valuable cows.

Further to refute the Old Boy grumbles about informative material by the boys being crowded out of *Acta*, a notable series on Canadian national affairs written by students was launched in 1927. The first article was *A National Policy* by R. W. Reville; the second was titled, *The Hudson's Bay Railway* by A. G. Ballantyne, and the third, by B. S. Wallace, was *The International Waterways Problem*. It was good Canadiana, and the boys showed skill in marshalling their facts and pressing their case with easy, even convincing readability.

The English masters had always maintained a high level of literary interest which was fostered steadily as boys advanced through the forms, with *Acta* always an ally. A fourth former, G. A. Woods, was curious to learn if Walter de la Mare's poem *The Listeners* had an inner meaning he did not discern. He followed the logical course (to a schoolboy) and asked the poet. His reply appeared in the Easter (1926) issue of *Acta*:

Hill House,
Taplow,
Buckinghamshire

Dear Mr. Woods,

Thank you for your letter. My own view is that a poem has no meaning apart from what is expressed in its own words, and I should include in the meaning whatever effect it has upon the mind and the imagination.

Every poem, therefore, may have as many "meanings" as it has readers.

With best wishes,

Yours very truly,
Walter de la Mare

Acta Ridleiana must have given an impression of sedate respectability by contrast with the newspapers; the continent's dailies – not excluding those of the larger Canadian cities – were erupting with blaring headlines with almost anything in the way of sordid or bizarre episode as an excuse. When they did not have sensation to report, they manufactured one; if a local crime was (in journalese) good and juicy they would contrive national interest in it. There were three great newspaper stories of these years which were long remembered by Ridleians, including the boys at school. One was Lindbergh's solo Atlantic flight, which raised a New York City ticker-tape greeting of a celebrity to a new peak in 1927 (the year of the Dempsey-Tunney long-count, of Babe Ruth's sixty home runs, of Canada's Diamond Jubilee, of the *Varsity Rag* and when Calvin Coolidge said: "I do not choose to run"). Another was the trial and execution in the same year of Sacco and Vanzetti, Italo-American radi-

cals, which raised a storm of protest from the liberals who claimed the two men were only condemned for murder because of their political beliefs. The conduct of their trial actually was a travesty of justice, and their execution proved to the young radical liberals of the universities that they had not won their struggle for the right of dissent. The third had exceptional interest for Ridley, and all other educational institutions, and not just because it was the most flagrant of all examples to date of newspaper sensationalism. Even conservative editors seemed to lose all restraint in covering what amounted to a clash in the courts between Youth and the New Freedom and the Old Guard of the Fundamentalists, but which was meant to settle whether or not a school-teacher could teach the Darwinian theory that man was derived from the monkey.

It is almost necessary to have lived as an adult during the Roaring Twenties with knowledge of the surrounding attributes and atmosphere to believe that such a judicial performance could be enacted; to a conservative mind the entire performance was and still is a bit unbelievable. It was a field day for yellow journalism. An enormous amount of newspaper space was devoted to the trial in the little town of Dayton in the mountains of Tennessee, with eminent jurists joining the scramble for newspaper notoriety.

Because John T. Scopes, who was accused of violating a Tennessee state law prohibiting "the teaching of any theory that denies the story of creation as taught in the Bible" was the science teacher and football coach of a little high school, his bizarre trial caught the attention of all educational institutions, both staffs and students. It was to linger long in the memory of Ridleians, partly because of the attempt to enforce fundamentalism in the teaching of religion in the schools and partly because there was so much about the trial which affronted Canadian respect for courtroom decorum and the dignity of the law. It can safely be said that a new, permanent appreciation of the administration of law and justice in Canada was one result of this Tennessee trial.

The moment William Jennings Bryan, noted for his flowery type of evangelical oratory and three times Democratic nominee for the U.S. presidency, volunteered to act as prosecutor, it was certain that the trial would be a publicity circus. This prospect was not diminished when Clarence Darrow, outspoken agnostic and America's most famous criminal lawyer, was retained by the Civil Liberties Union. He appeared in his shirtsleeves to defend school-teacher Scopes. The packed Tennessee town declared for high carnival: pitchmen of all descriptions hawked their wares in the crowded, ribald streets and live apes and even a few serpents were displayed in store windows with a Garden of Eden theme.

To devoutly religious Canadians there was something almost sacrilegious about a trial opened with a prayer in such an atmosphere. To most Canadians

it was farcical. It was meant, of course, to signal that religion would be the keynote.

Ridley boys gleefully made a farce of it, too. There was many a mock Monkey Trial in their dormitories.

As Scopes was being found guilty and fined \$100 and costs, it is remembered that a visitor called at Ridley and expressed dismay about the trial's influence on the religious thinking of boys. He was reassured by Mr. Williams who not only knew the Ridley boy but had faith in him: "No harm will be done. They'll do some thinking on science and religion, and be all the better for it."

It proved to be so. If some boys decided they doubted the commonsense of the Bryan kind of fundamentalism, they did not consider themselves agnostics; they could see no reason why a good Christian must believe in such a literal interpretation of the *Good Book*. If the Monkey Trial brought religion to the fore at Ridley, it did not weaken a solid belief in either the social values or the basic tenets of Christianity. Yet it had been a particularly disturbing phase of the Roaring Twenties to all educational institutions, and perhaps especially to the preparatory schools where boys were forming their personal philosophies. (*Postscript*: Long after, John Thomas Scopes returned to the scene of the Monkey Trial and was presented with a ceremonial key and "The Freedom of the City of Dayton". He wondered aloud wryly why the archaic Tennessee law under which he was tried thirty-five years before was still on the books. At that moment a chimpanzee named *Ham* had just taken a rocket flight; with tongue-in-cheek he wondered (in a television speech) if this adoption of "monkeys first" by nuclear scientists was not going to bring up the controversy of precedence all over again.)

IN CONTRAST to the nonsense of the trial in Tennessee, and the general public desire to add sensation or extract excitement from almost anything which occurred, a homely game was suddenly experiencing intense popularity at Ridley. It perhaps came from the watchful intention to keep the boys busy, especially in the winters, as an antidote to mischief. It was new and entertaining. All over the School – in all houses – a wee white orb was going *pink ponk* with such repetition that all former after-class occupations were forgotten until the peak of the new craze could be dulled.

"Ping-pong has taken the strongholds of the school by storm," was the sardonic comment of the unwilling reporter assigned to report on table-tennis early in '26. "The Conquest of Ridley by this apparently asinine game will go down in history along with the Fall of Jericho, the Taking of Troy and the Siege of the Bastille."

Quite obviously, Ridley was not too sure whether to register pride or shame over the speed with which ping-pong had suddenly spurted to popularity.

The entertaining game had been taken up by every student caste – from tiny third to boisterous fifth-formers. (“Even from pompous prefects comes the cry, ‘Let’s ping-pong!’”) The enthusiasts far outnumbered the belittlers of ping-pong, but they felt so uncomfortable they thought they must stridently defend the game in which the player “gently pats a diminutive white ball over a fish net”. They loudly extolled its value – in quickening the eye, the feet, the speed of thought, the reflexes. Boxers, footballers, cricketers, gymnasts and the track-and-field men were soon all sharpening-up their reflexes by ping-pong. It is doubtful, of course, if they really thought of such a thing; the attraction of ping-pong was its speed and the challenge of competition, yet it was the boy with lightning reflexes who became a highly skilled ping-ponger.

It had been the inspiration of Mr. Griffith and Mr. Comber; they had provided a table for each house but needed were at least three tables each. The table in Gooderham House, for instance, was virtually in use from dawn until *Lights Out*. In the evenings in the Dean’s House those waiting their turn were banked three deep around the table. (“One can no longer recount the Principal’s favourite anecdote which ends, ‘*Je ne peux pas Ping-pong!*’ And Why? *Parce que tout le monde peut Ping-pong!*’”)

Sissy or not, ping-pong had come to Ridley to stay for awhile.

In 1926 the hockey players were busier than ever before; the first team played fifteen games between January 15 and March 6, sometimes throwing themselves into stiff hockey battles two days in a row (Friday night and Saturday afternoon). They did quite well, winning 11 with 3 games tied and only 1 lost. D. E. Rogers, hockey captain, was a fine rushing defenceman and also a clever ice tactician. He had three first-year colour men: Billy (W. E. N.) Bell who made up for his lack of stature with sheer ability; the rugged S. R. Granger, another new forward; E. S. Fischer, goal – “a tower of strength” – and G. J. Maybee, substitute defenceman, who could use his body. Rogers, J. B. Neeve and J. A. Botterell were the second-year men.

There was a mild epidemic of ‘flu in 1926 which was not virulent, but it put Bell ma into the sick-room for the last month of the hockey season.

SICK ROOM

*This is the spot that loafers love,
The nice white beds with lights above,
Where Davey spends most half his days
With Down and Bell to share his trays.*

*Then let me leave this safe retreat,
And back to classes drag my feet,
And may be, if I’ll only stick,
I’ll try some subjects on Matric.*

IT WAS BILLY BELL'S responsibility to lead the 1927 hockey team, one which could probably rank with any team in Ridley's rink history. Few earlier teams ever did so well; his 1927 team won 15 games, tied 1 – *and lost none!* It may not have been noted (because Billy Bell was a wonderful footballer as well one of the greatest of Ridley's cricket greats and is remembered primarily as a cricketer), but this team opened what was probably Ridley's finest hockey era.

Bell's hockey colours were: E. S. Fischer, goal – “bids fair to become the best the school ever had”; R. B. Fisher and V. A. Subosits, defencemen – “very strong; Fisher is fast with a good shot and Subosits was very steady for a first-year man”; B. F. Morse, centre – “an effective poke-check, a treat to watch him in action, scored 44 goals”; Clarke (L. C.) Bell mi, left-wing – “Not so good as his brother; hard shot; will improve in his second year”; W. J. Hearn and A. M. Hayes, substitutes – “good all-round; useful and improving”. Billy Bell played right-wing; he was “a good captain, with a deadly accurate shot”. He scored 37 goals on the season. His brother scored 19.

A new development in Ridley hockey were games against U. of T. fraternities. A few contests had been staged earlier but in 1927 Ridley played and defeated Alpha Delta Phi, 4-3; Beta Theta Pi, 10-1; Delta Upsilon, 15-1; Delta Kappa Epsilon, 7-3; and Zeta Psi twice, 9-4 and 8-4. The fraternities were welcome additions to Ridley's long-standing competition with the teams of the high schools and collegiates in the Niagara Peninsula and Buffalo.

Perhaps it was Ridley's success against these older, heavier players from the fraternities which inspired the campaigners for a Little Big Four hockey league to switch their target in 1928 to the O.H.A. – “Why is Ridley not playing Junior O.H.A.?” The teams of 1927 and 1928 would have done well in such well-drilled and -coached company. Ridley had been having trouble with the larger ice surfaces at Toronto, but in competing against University of Toronto Schools in Varsity Arena they had learned how to avoid letting the larger playing surface become a handicap. In both these years Ridley defeated U.T.S. teams which had “big hockey names” in their line-ups, sometimes Old Ridleians.

The fraternity teams also often had Ridley Old Boys playing for them and by 1928 were growing stronger. Ridley still won against five of them but lost to Delta Upsilon 5-3. Oscar Fisher was captain, with Bill Bell still at right-wing. His tall younger brother had improved so much that the Bell attack had become the strongest offensive threat of the team. (“Bell mi is the better skater, lovely to watch. Bell ma is a better stick-handler and his work around the other goal in a tangle of hostile sticks was often uncanny.”)

They were getting depth in hockey strength now as well as in cricket. The second team of lowly scrubs under Sam Granger, their captain, were all potential first-team colours. The Seconds had an undefeated season in 1926,

winning 9 games and tying 1. Their goal record told of future promise: scored 53, against 16. Hockey was at a peak. Longer and more crowded schedules for the first and second teams, lots of work for the third and a Lower School that had eager young comers on the ice had noticeably increased the intensity of interest in Ridley's short hockey season.

After 1926 the Toronto fraternities also began competing against Ridley in basketball. They were not on Ridley's schedule for 1926 when the School won 7 and lost 3 games against their old opponents among the collegiates and high schools, but in 1927 Ridley defeated Alpha Delta Phi 31-30 and Beta Theta Pi 47-37 during a mediocre year of 7 losses offset by only 5 victories.

This poor record persuaded Ridley's basketballers to switch tactics, to adopt the passing game instead of so much dribbling and to institute the five-man defence. It did not work at first. In their opening and most important game of 1928 against Collegiate Grads they lost just short of ignominiously, 52-14, but the new tactic improved their play later.

The hockey, rugby, cricket and basketball players were nearly all boxing in these winters, too, for the earlier striking rise in boxing was holding on; so many boys of all sizes and forms were putting on the big gloves that a longer and longer series of preliminary bouts became necessary in the late winter each year to declare the finalists at the school weights. By early March Sergeant Alexander was always under pressure to get his boxing tournament ready for staging before the cricket season was upon them. He managed it by March 19 in 1926, but as usual some finalists were only decided late the night before. Col. F. C. McCordick, Colonel Commandant of the Niagara Militia District, and a group of militia officers were in the audience for the 1926 boxing tournament, the Colonel presenting the replicas of the Robertson shields to the new crop of champions. The results of the finals were:

Midget-midget (85 lb.)	W. K. Brown defeated W. F. Greenwood
Midget (95 lb.)	R. C. Hague defeated H. R. Tucker
Flyweight (105 lb.)	G. F. McAvity defeated G. Rogers
Bantam (115 lb.)	S. A. McCatty defeated L. C. Bell
Feather (125 lb.)	E. S. Fisher defeated M. G. Glassco
Lightweight (135 lb.)	W. P. Richardson defeated A. H. Marston
Welter (145 lb.)	D. C. Clark defeated W. R. Stringer
Middle (158 lb.)	J. T. Jackson defeated D. C. Clark
Light-Heavy (175 lb.)	J. D. Buchanan defeated L. W. Chapple (TKO)

AS SCHOOL SPIRIT SOARED

THE simultaneous acceleration of interest in sport and rising school spirit became very obvious between 1926 and 1929, with the entire world of the Ridleians, old and young, excited. The new wave of athletic success and interest which was almost fierce in its intensity and which ran through all

forms, was probably the result of the most spectacular of all Ridley cricket eras to date. It was a spontaneous development. No plan or push by the administration was needed. Ridley's cricket team had the entire school and all its Old Boys pulsing with excitement, and new interest in all other sports was at once noticeably spurred. School spirit soared. The success of the football and hockey teams kept it soaring.

It was a fortuitous development for such a period. Ridley had no interest in sport as a spectacle but encouragement to play games was deliberately and wisely intensified in these years. The brightest spark to the quickening in athletic and other intramural activity came from the earnestness of the boys themselves: If authority was being flouted by the younger generation, this was also a day when youth liked to rise to a challenge and to revel in spirited rivalry, the very elements they could find permeating competitive sport.

Ridley's cricketers now began to score centuries in flurries; on one occasion there were two Ridley centuries in a single game. A Ridley batsman achieved the highest score ever made in the history of the Little Big Four, even if Sandy Somerville's 212 not out against Hamilton was not matched, and the Ridley XI itself made the highest number of runs ever scored by a team in Canadian school cricket.

Ridley's cricket success was an old story but now one spectacular episode seemed to follow another in swift succession, with football also emerging from a slump to give the School a very belated championship in 1927 just to make sure that school spirit kept on soaring.

There was no warning of colourful cricket feats to come in the spring of 1926. In the late winter Ridley's first XI faced a bleak outlook; practically all the old colours of 1925 had graduated, and their score sheet at the end of the 1926 season bore the prospect out; the record was dismaying. They won over Trinity College School, the Rosedale and Hamilton Cricket Clubs, the Old Boys and St. George's C.C. of Buffalo; they won and lost against St. Catharines C.C.; but that was all for the credit side. They lost to both Upper Canada and St. Andrew's – the painful defeats – and also to the Toronto Cricket Club and Hamilton District.

Then came the transformation, which was both unexpected and unique because it was so sharp in the short space of one year. In 1927 Ridley produced one of the strongest elevens ever to represent the School up to this time, notwithstanding the loss of one inter-school game. The cricket reporter of *Acta* was a restrained commentator by tradition but he recorded: "This will go down in cricket history as one of the most successful seasons Ridley has ever had." They won 11, lost 2, with 3 matches drawn, but their scoring ability was remarkable, with eight players averaging in double figures for the season. That Ridley should miss an outright Little Big Four Championship in 1927 with this very powerful batting was a disconcerting shock.

Disaster occurred in the midst of high-scoring matches, all victories. St.

Andrew's College were building powerful cricket teams in these years, too; they were the Ridley giant killer. They caught Ridley on an inexplicable off-day for the St. Andrew's game was sandwiched between Ridley's 210-86 defeat of Hamilton Cricket Club and a spectacular beating inflicted upon Trinity College School (the very next day) by a similar high score, 210-33.

The fatal St. Andrew's game had first been called due to heavy rain, with Ridley's team already in Toronto. It was then scheduled for the following Friday (June 10) and was played on the fine grounds of the Toronto Cricket Club at Armour Heights. Ridley's XI seemed to collapse psychologically and every other way; only two Ridley batsmen reached double figures. Fischer scored 40 of their 88 run-total; had he not done so Ridley's effort would have looked terrible indeed. ("Under the circumstances, Bell's bowling analysis of 6 wickets for 40 runs was very good.") The Ridley XI were relieved when that 157-88 defeat was behind them, even if it could not be forgotten.

Next day Ridley had the reversal of form against T.C.S. which was hardly explained by a difference in the calibre of St. Andrew's bowlers and those of Trinity College School. There was not that much difference; perhaps the shock of the St. Andrew's débâcle was a stinging spur. Ridley went on a scoring rampage against T.C.S., scoring 210 runs, with Billy Bell's 78 runs before he was the ninth man out one of the highlights. He was getting great distance, hitting eleven boundaries. (Despite this poor showing by T.C.S. (33 runs) it was the boys of Port Hope who split that season's cricket championship with Ridley.)

Then came Little Big Four cricket history, five days later. In a match against Upper Canada on Ridley's campus, J. M. McAvity scored 134 runs, the highest number of runs any player had made in the history to date of Little Big Four cricket matches. He hit 17 fours and one five.

It was, of course, another Ridley century – the 8th – still a rare achievement in secondary school cricket in Canada.

There were other notable cricket feats in this Upper Canada game. Two bowling efforts were remarkable; Hearn got 6 wickets for 13, and Tucker's analysis was especially noted by the experienced cricketers: 4 overs, 2 maidens, 4 runs and 5 wickets!

Not only that, in three hours Ridley had scored 255 runs when their innings was declared closed with only 8 wickets down. This was approximately 82 runs per hour. It also represented a new listing for the record book of the Little Big Four: it was the highest score yet attained in inter-school cricket competition in Canada.

In two innings U.C.C. scored 45 and 58 runs, with Ridley thus winning by an innings and 152 runs.

It was about this time that an Enquiring Reporter sought opinions from Ridleians on the number of centuries scored to date in school cricket. The



LITTLE BIG FOUR CRICKET CHAMPIONS—1928

U.C.C. 39,79; Ridley 156 St. Andrew's 54; Ridley 60,137 T.C.S. 44; Ridley 228

An Historic Team: rear oval, G. L. Hardy; Alex Hayes; C. F. Robinson; E. S. Fischer; The Pro (Tom Coburn); J. H. O'Flynn; F. B. Mercer; D. L. Innes; G. F. McAvity. *Centre:* Mr. H. C. Griffith; W. E. N. Bell, captain; Mr. E. C. Powell. *In front:* M. G. Mather; V. A. Subosits and Clarke (L. C.) Bell.



PRINCIPAL H. G. WILLIAMS
in his study in the old
Lower School.



*Great
Ridleians*

LT-COL. GEORGE THAIRS,
Bursar and drill-instructor
1889-1924. From an oil
by E. Wyly Grier.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

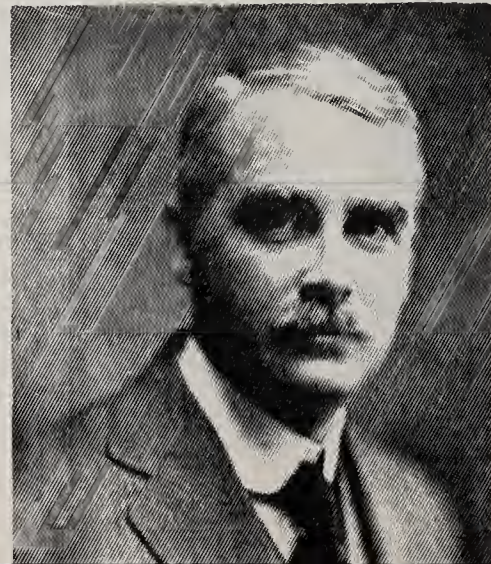
R. C. LEE
('00-'07)
President, 1918



W. E. CALDECOTT
('89-'92)
President, 1919-22



WILMOT L. MATTHEWS
('92-'95)
President, 1924-7





MISS
JOAN ELIZABETH GRIFFITH
(daughter of Dr. H. C. Griffith).
Lower School 1927-9.
Now Mrs. E. B. Fry, Honorary
Member Old Boys' Association.

*Ladies
of
Ridley*



MISS
GWENDOLEN WILLIAMS
(daughter of Mr. H. G. Williams).
Lower School 1905-7.
A Toronto librarian.



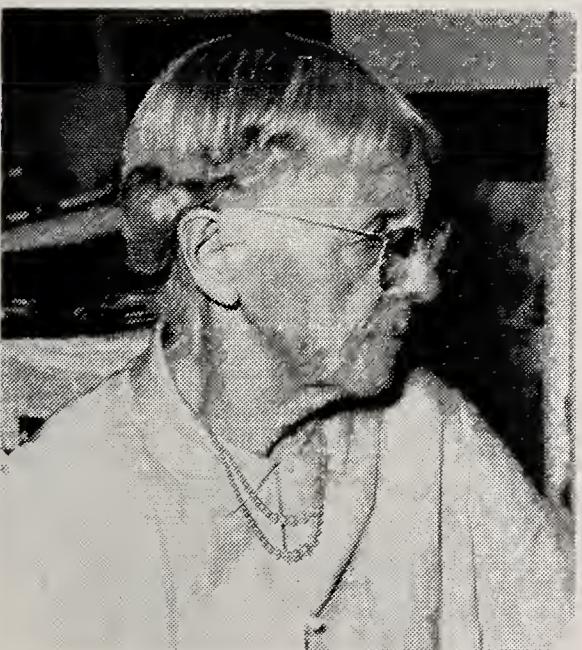
MISS NANNETTE MILLER
(daughter of Dr. J. O. Miller).
Lower and Upper Schools (1904-8).
Now Mrs. H. (Laddie) Cassels.
Honorary Member, Old Boys'
Association.

*The
only
Girl
Students*



MISS
KITTY (KATHARINE) MILLER
(daughter of Dr. Miller).
Lower School 1913-7. She is Mrs.
K. M. O. Miller.

Long and Devoted Service



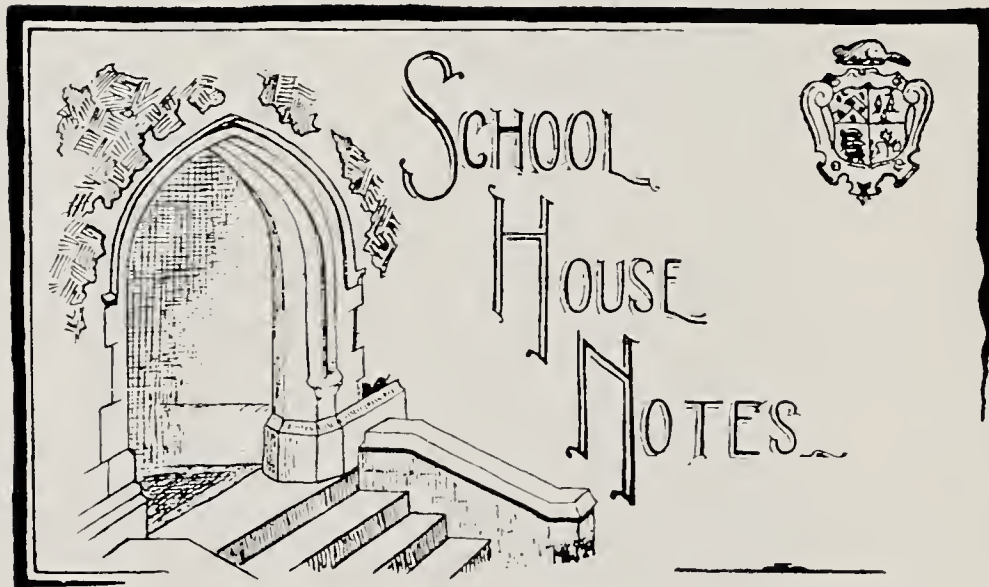
MISS I. HEPWORTH
Lower School Nurse
1919-1938



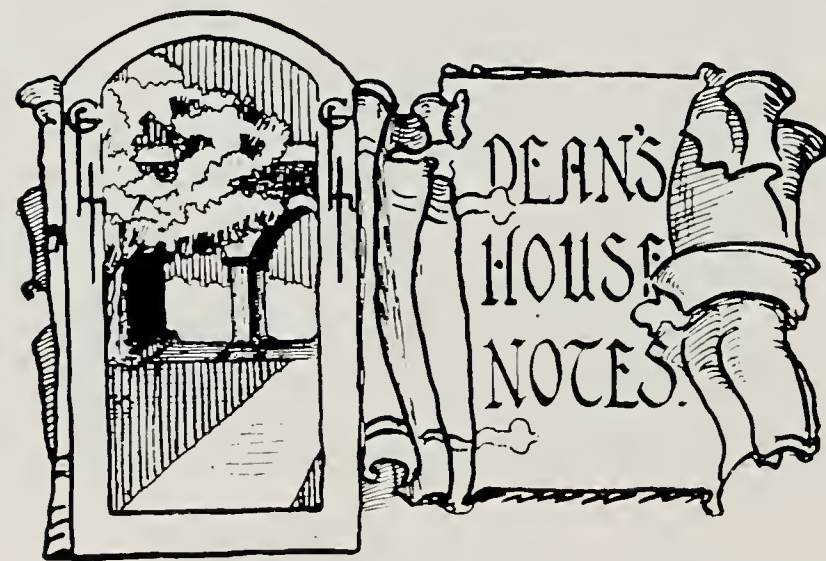
MISS H. A. BOYD
Upper School Matron
1927-1952



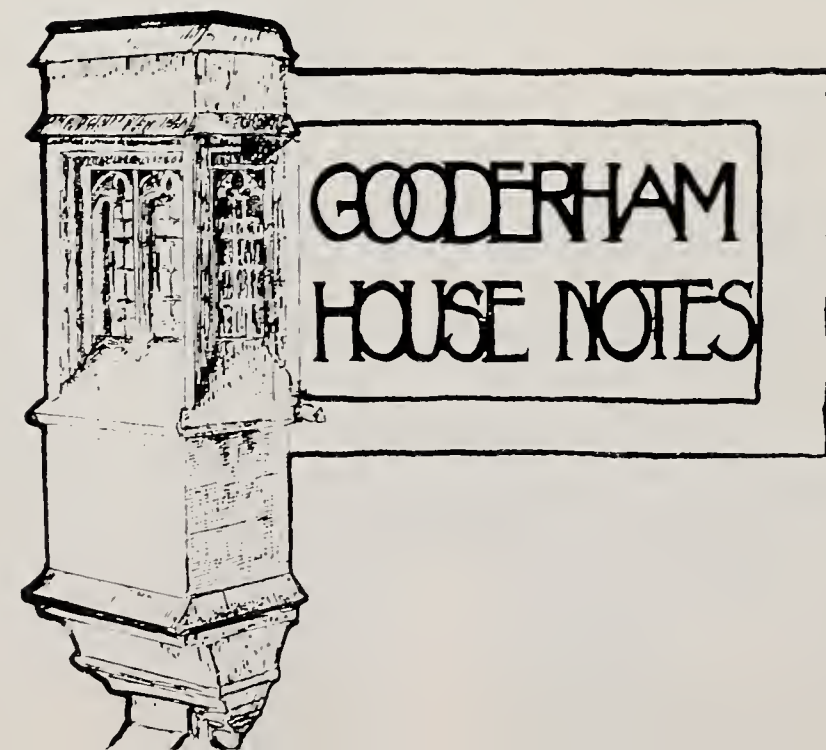
Chapel Notes



ACTA ART



*Feature
Headings
of the
Twenties*



Hank



consensus was, "Oh, about thirty." Some thought it might be forty; more guessed "twenty or so". As noted earlier *Ridley's centuries totalled just eight*.

RIDLEY CENTURIES — 1897-1927

1st —1897 (June 26) A. W. Mackenzie	103 not out vs. Rosedale C.C.
2nd—1913 (May 17) J. F. Manley	101 vs. Hamilton C.C.
3rd—1921 (June 1) C. R. Somerville	104 vs. Upper Canada College
4th—1921 (June 8) C. R. Somerville	212 not out vs. Hamilton C.C.
5th—1922 (June 7) G. J. Cliff	106 not out vs. Hamilton C.C.
6th—1924 (May 30) H. S. Lennox	108 not out vs. Buffalo C.C.
7th—1925 (May 30) M. H. Snyder	116 vs. Buffalo C.C.
8th—1927 (June 15) J. M. McAvity	134 vs. Upper Canada College

Then came 1928 which saw perhaps the most exciting cricket season Ridley would ever know. It was a year of a clean sweep of all preliminary matches, of all inter-school matches and even of a prolonged series of matches staged during a post-term tour to Ottawa, Montreal, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The Ridley XI was invincible, and so was the combination of School and Old Boy cricketers to go on tour. It was a year in which ten of the eleven matches of the season were played on Ridley's own beautiful grounds. It was a year in which no less than five centuries, one by E. S. Fischer and two each by the Bell brothers were scored. And Billy Bell personally scored a total of more than 500 runs.

This was also known as the *Year of the St. Andrew's Match!* To Ridleians of the time no added explanation is required. This was an historic match, still talked about and compared by the oldest Old Boys to a dim, far-back battle with Upper Canada on the cricket green of 1896 in the days of Alex Mackenzie.

Determined that an outright Little Big Four Championship should not elude them in 1928, the bowlers and batsmen were on the cricket pitch before the spring sun had firmed the turf. There was keen rivalry for the vacant colours, and the boys' eagerness for practice, coupled with the chosen eleven's great morale and earnestness, bore such wonderful fruit that Ridley had a spectacular season. Her elevens had been habitually hitting for high scores but the Big Bats were tremendous in 1928, with Cricket Captain Billy Bell and his brother Clarke reaching the heights.

His 504 runs for the season was proclaimed by Ridley to be still another preparatory school cricket record, and it probably was. Included in this remarkable batting feat were not just one but two centuries by the team captain — 101 against Toronto Cricket Club and 103 against Rosedale.

E. S. Fischer's century completed Ridley's overwhelming defeat of Rosedale Cricket Club by surpassing Bell's earlier score of 103; Fischer scored 120 not out. Ridley won by 136 runs.

Not to be completely overshadowed by his brother, Clarke (L. C.) Bell mi – a first-year man – played a sparkling game in July against Alpha Delta Phi – and scored Ridley’s fourth century in this fantastic cricket season! He was also 120 not out.

Then he did it again! Clarke scored 104 not out during the post-season tour, against Westwood C.C. at Montreal. (Because it was not scored during the School’s cricket season, and the touring XI was supplemented by Old Boys, this century is omitted from the record of school play.)

Ridley thought four centuries in one cricket season must also be a school cricket record – and it no doubt was – as they added this list of centuries to the Ridley cricket chronicle:

1928		
9th	E. S. Fischer	120 not out vs Rosedale C.C.
10th	W. E. N. Bell	103 vs Rosedale C.C.
11th	W. E. N. Bell	101 vs Toronto Cricket Club
12th	L. C. Bell	120 not out vs Alpha Delta Phi

One game had been drawn early in the season against St. Catharines C.C. after Ridley had won their first match by 26 runs. Weather also caused the exciting annual Old Boys game to be declared drawn, after the Old Boys had compiled the largest score of the year against the School (191). Old Boys Snyder, Mix and Jarvis were in rare form, and Mitchell had a gratifying innings for a father whose son was watching – and cheering – from the ranks of the Lower School.

There was a very famous Old Riddleian – another mighty cricketer – also watching that day from the sidelines. Sandy (C. R.) Somerville alternatively cheered on the Old Boys and the school. He had acted as umpire for Ridley games occasionally and had often signed the Old Boys Visitors’ Book, but he was greeted with special acclaim after the match; he was the new Canadian Amateur Golf Champion. (In another four years Sandy would reach the heights in golf, winning the U. S. Amateur Golf Championship, the only time it had been achieved by a Canadian golfer.)

The Old Boys’ game was called just as Bell mi had scored 61 not out and Bell ma 29 not out. (“We might possibly have seen another century from one of the Bell combination.”)

Ridley won their Little Big Four Championship in 1928 through defeating U.C.C. by 156 to 39 and 79; St. Andrew’s in a famous match by the narrow margin of six runs on the first innings score; and T.C.S. by the lop-sided score of 228 for 8 against 44.

In commenting on the Upper Canada game Ridley’s cricket reporter graphically wrote: “One feels almost ashamed of the monotony of reporting scores by the Bells, but the fact remains that they were at it again, the younger with 37 and the elder with 44. Hayes’ 22 comes like a cooling breeze across parched fields, beaten down by the bats of the Bells.”

The excitement of that Ridley cricket season refuted all that its baseball critics and other disparagers said about cricket's slow play and lack of excitement. For sheer sustained suspense, nothing equalled in that year, or for many years, the magnificent Ridley-St. Andrew's cricket match, with its slim 6-run margin at the end. St. Andrew's had built a powerful team in 1928 and they had a month of straight victories behind them when they came to St. Catharines for their annual inter-school match with Ridley, always a deadly serious affair for both. St. Andrew's had just passed the 300 mark in one match (not against a school). Ridley, of course, was also in the midst of a string of high-scoring triumphs, so a tremendous contest was certain.

Unexpectedly, runs on both sides were so scarce that it was reminiscent of school cricket of years before. Good bowling kept both teams to the lowest scoring efforts of their seasons; or was it nerves, tension and excitement? All the big bats failed for both teams.

Nothing could tell more effectively of the tense situations in that fascinating game than the account by the cricket reporter at the time. He was given three full pages in *Acta* which must testify to the importance with which this match was viewed; *Acta's* editors had never before been so generous with space to the cricketers for a single game. Here are extracts:

"When Ridley's tenth wicket (first innings) had fallen for only 60 runs, it looked an easy thing for St. Andrew's, and when we saw Grant play that first ball from Mercer, we said: 'It's all over.'

"You could have purchased Ridley's chances for a five-cent piece.

"But there was a different spirit on the field. Bell had said, 'We will get them out for less than sixty' — and they did! If we added 'In spite of Grant' it would be no discourtesy . . . he handles himself like a county man.

"... with two down, sixteen runs had been scored and Rolph, St. Andrew's captain, was on his way to the wicket. . . . He can score runs as quickly as any boy in the schools. . . .

"He hits out and gets three. . . . Grant puts a single past the rigid infield and that brings Rolph back to McAvity again. This time he goes for it and Fischer makes a catch the like of which we shall probably never see again. The ball took flight over mid-on's head, and rose as if to fall in the dead ground between that man and Fischer in the long.

"But Fischer was coming in from the screen on a dead gallop. Aeons of time passed. The ball mounted, mounted, and then fell.

"Perhaps the most difficult catch in the world is to take a skier, straight ahead, while travelling at top speed. Yet that was precisely what Fischer did. When we imagined the ball had reached the ground, he dived, rolled over and over, and came up with the ball safely in his right hand.

"The shout disturbed the canal workers at Port Weller!

"That catch did several things. It made the impossible appear just barely possible. It reduced the very large school crowd to a condition bordering on dementia, and it unsettled Grant."

But Grant recovered confidence and on a full toss to the leg he hit the ball clear of both the trees and the road to the east. When found later it lay in the shrubbery, thirty yards down toward the canal. Because of Grant's batting St. Andrew's had now scored half the necessary 60 runs, and there were still six more wickets to fall.

Bell then demonstrated superb and daring generalship. He went on himself for McAvity, with Mercer, and Grant promptly hit one from Mercer, straight into the reliable hands of Alex Hayes. The great man walked away from the wicket. It was now 5 for 35.

"Suppressed excitement was now intensified by a faint hope but it became more painful than ever. The huge crowd, lifted from despair, was showing signs of behaving far more disgracefully than it would ever have behaved at a football match."

Bell was bowling beautifully; five maidens out of 8 overs was his final analysis, but for the moment Foster and James appeared to be at the wicket to stay. Then Bell scattered Foster's stumps! St. Andrew's now had 41 runs with 4 wickets still to go down. Then they had 44, with 3 wickets to go.

"The dénouement followed upon Bell's second piece of captaincy. McAvity, who had bowled three maiden overs in succession, was taken off, and Mercer, who had taken only two wickets for nineteen runs went on again.

"It looked like suicide. Six runs to make, three wickets to fall – and a fast bowler who has a tendency to be erratic.

"Mercer clean bowled Murphy. At the other end, Bell allowed one run, and then Robertson was run out.

"Nine down for 54. The six runs were still to be made. One wicket to fall.

"Lough comes out to bat. The situation is suddenly completely reversed. Lough, the last batsman, has a tremendous task on his shoulders. We knew that he is no coward. Mercer walks back nearly to the screen. It is to be a fast one. . . . It was! It breaks back to Lough's pads!

"How's that?

"The umpire's hand goes up and the match is over!"

It was only later that experienced Ridley cricketers understood Bell's logic in suddenly inserting the uncertain Mercer at such a critical point. The six runs St. Andrew's required would have been almost certainly scored off the bowling by himself and McAvity. By inexplicably putting in the often erratic Mercer Bell hoped that its unexpectedness could help Mercer account for the last three unhappy batsmen. He did, and it would probably not have been achieved without that wise surprise tactic of desperation.

For years Ridley would talk about the end of the St. Andrew's match and how the last three men went down – "Mercer clean bowled the first; then

another was run out; and the last was given out l.b.w. on his first ball." There was a second innings, with Ridley scoring another 137 which meant impossible things with the bat were required of St. Andrew's Grant and Rolph, but the game was decided in any event on the first innings.

During the season Ridley had been so powerful with their cricket bats that they had 277 for 3, 230 for 3 and 150 for 3. The average of their runs for the fall of each wicket over the whole season was 22.8.

Undefeated in Ontario and declared Little Big Four Champions again, the team then went on its tour, this time to the east as far as Halifax – *and remained undefeated!* At Montreal, they downed Westwood C.C. and also McGill who were holders of the John Ross Robertson Cup. They went on to the Maritimes and defeated, in turn, Saint John (N.B.) Cricket Club, Windsor (N.S.) C.C., Halifax's Garrison C.C., and then met and outplayed the champions of the Maritimes, Stellarton (N.S.) Cricket Club. On the way home they stopped at Ottawa and defeated the Ottawa Valley XI twice.

To illustrate their batting strength on the tour were scores of 290 and 254 for 5, and 220 and 203 for 6.

The annual cricket tours by Ridley, always staged right after school had closed, were of long standing now, but they still constituted wonderful goodwill expeditions in behalf of both the School and cricket. They also gave the players an opportunity to see many parts of Canada and to improve their understanding of their own broad country. They were greeted everywhere, always, by Old Boys whose hearts were warmed by the sight of the orange and black on distant cricket greens. It was the Old Boys who saw most clearly, and believed most fervently, that the great value of the cricket tours rested in the examples of fine young manhood, moulded and shaped at Ridley, which Canadians in all provinces saw and admired.

That great Ridley cricket XI of 1928 deserves any lasting fame it can be given. This was the team:

W. E. N. Bell (captain) – Fifth year – "A very sound bat with a splendid defence and great scoring ability. As captain he used rare judgment at all times." (Runs scored: 504; batting average, 50.4; bowling average, 14.06.)

F. B. Mercer – Third year – "A splendid bowler. A good fielder. Improved batting." (Runs 31; batting average, 7.7; bowling average, 8.6.)

V. O. Subosits – Third year – "One of best wicket keepers Ridley ever had." (Runs, 69; batting average, 17.2.)

G. L. Hardy – Third year – "A free bat and rapid scorer. Splendid point fielder." (Runs, 95; batting average, 15.8.)

E. S. Fischer – Third year – "Stylish and effective bat. Scored a century. A magnificent long field. His catch of Rolph in the St. Andrew's match was perhaps the most brilliant ever seen on the Ridley field." (Runs, 304; batting average, 38.)

J. H. O'Flynn – Second year – "A good bat. Very good fielder." (Runs, 46; average, 5.2.)

- C. F. Robinson* – Third year – “A good bat but does not do himself justice. Improved fielding.” (Runs, 56; average 7.7.)
- D. L. Innes* – Second year – “Has ability; will improve. Good fielder.” (Runs, 30; average, 3.3.)
- L. C. Bell* – First year – “Developed quickly into a sound left-hand batsman. Splendid hitting power. His century was well earned.” (Runs, 335; batting average, 41.8; bowling average, 27.5.)
- G. F. McAvity* – First year – “A good bat, splendid bowler. Has improved in every way.” (Runs, 187; batting average, 18.7; bowling average, 9.6.)
- A. M. Hayes* – First year – “Deserves great credit for his improvement in batting. Made several useful stands in school matches.” (Runs 82; average, 20.5.)

Whether or not Ridley’s exhilarating cricket season acted as a spur, in 1928 so many boys registered to compete in the contests on games day that many races once more had to be run off during the previous week. Even then the programme was crowded; forty-one events had still to be decided. (“Heat after heat came teeming down the track from the apparently unfathomable depths of Lower School enthusiasm; the Junior and Intermediate events of the Upper School were only a trifle less popular, and there was plenty of stiff Senior competition.”)

TRACK-AND-FIELD CHAMPIONS, 1926-7-8

	Senior	Intermediate	Junior	Lower School
1926	C. Thompson } D. C. Clark }tie	C. F. Robinson	G. F. McAvity	G. C. Powell
1927	W. G. Slanker	J. H. O’Flynn	W. D. Neeland	R. B. Mackenzie
1928	C. F. Robinson	Innes II	L. Hamill	B. E. Natwick

The stretch between games day and the last day of the school year always seemed to race; for all, there was the deadweight of examination anxieties hanging heavy on their young minds, and for those who were leaving Ridley there was the conflict of regret and eager or nervous anticipation about stepping into the estate of young manhood. It was the one month in the Ridley year when the mischievous squelched themselves, when work and study easily took precedence over fun and games and when the crammers grew testy.

*There comes a time in our school year,
A time of anguish, dread and fear;
When subjects long-forgotten are
Recalled, as from a distance far –
Examinations!*

*With propositions intricate
 We wrestle long, to shun our fate,
 For well we know our doom's assured
 Unless all frolics are abjured –
 Examinations!
 – E. H. B.*

In 1927 the Prize Day crowd in the Assembly Hall had been thrilled to have a great Canadian speak to them who had been a master in the School's first year, the Reverend Canon Cody, D.D., a vice-president of Ridley. In 1928 His Honour W. D. Ross, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, was guest speaker.

RIDLEY'S TOP HONOURS, 1926-7-8

	MASON GOLD MEDAL FOR TRUE MANLINESS (<i>on the vote of the boys</i>)	HEAD BOY (<i>Governor-General's Gold Medal</i>)	HEAD BOY of the Lower School (<i>Mason Gold Medal</i>)
1926	J. L. Maw	D. C. Masters	W. G. Shambrook
1927	W. H. Sims	G. K. Masters	N. A. Creet
1928	W. E. N. Bell	J. H. O'Flynn	J. H. Moore

Distinguished Canadians and excellent speakers often visited Ridley now, with fine addresses being heard in the Assembly Hall in winter or sometimes in the chapel on Sunday evenings. The Bishop of Athabasca; Archdeacon Renison, D.D., the Reverend R. M. Millman of Japan, a former member of Ridley's staff; the Provost of Trinity; the Reverend Gore-Barrow, Headmaster of Lake Lodge School; the Reverend Professor Mercer Wilson of Wycliffe; the Reverend Professor J. Lowe of Trinity; the Reverend Principal O'Meara of Wycliffe; the Reverend Dr. Dyson Hague and Canon Plumptre, Rector of St. James Cathedral, Toronto, all spoke at Ridley's Sunday evening services during these years, some of them more than once. Prize Days and Cadet Sundays provided addresses which were often longer and perhaps more profound, but the popularity of the short services on Sunday evenings in the chapel remained one of the most cherished features of school life.

In addition to great generals and distinguished educators who spoke on Prize Days, other prominent men were often invited to speak to the boys in the School. Dr. Rendall, Headmaster of Winchester, visited Ridley in 1927. Sir Henry Thornton, President of the C.N.R., spoke to the assembled boys one morning, closing an inspiring address to his young audience with the admonition: "Equip yourselves fully, play the game, serve God and honour the King." In the boys' view the most interesting speaker they heard in the three winters of 1926-7-8 was Major Zinovi Peckoff, a Russian-born soldier-of-fortune who had risen from the ranks in that most fascinating of all fighting corps, the French Foreign Legion. He had commanded a Legion battalion against the

Riffs in Morocco, acted as a Commissioner with Admiral Kolchak in Siberia and was decorated with the Cross of St. George by Russia's General Brussiloff. He told of his adventures with wit and realism, thrilling the entire school for an hour. They had not been so engrossed by a visiting speaker since Ned Pratt, Newfoundland-born poet, had read to them his narrative poem, *The Cachalot*, about the whale that rammed the *Albatross*.

It was characters like Major Peckoff whom the boys of these years would remember when they were hoary Old Boys.

The death in 1927 of Ridley's second president (1899) and longest-serving governor – Dr. N. W. Hoyles, K.C., LL.D. – also recalled earlier Ridley days, especially for the Old Boys of the Nineties and the scores who had heard him speak on the Gold Medal for Manliness as he presented it on many Prize Days. He did this so often after 1901 that the function had been considered his by tradition. In recent years his health had prevented his frequent appearance at Ridley, but his charm of manner and his scholarly allusions in his always witty and brief speeches would be long remembered. His two sons, H. L. (1893-9) who was Little Mud Hoyles, killed during the Kaiser's War, and N. W. (1895-1900) who was Big Mud, and who became a colonel of engineers, had been active and prominent students between 1893 and 1900. He had been president of Wycliffe College for thirty-three years, and his personal regard for Ridley, and dedication to her affairs, had not faltered in nearly forty years. With the exception of Dr. Miller, the aged first headmaster, Dr. Hoyles had been the last living founder.

As the school re-assembled after the long summer holidays, the conversation in trains, boats, buses and motor-cars heading for St. Catharines inevitably turned to Ridley's rugby prospects. How would the line be this year? Who would play flying wing? How many old colours would be available? This sudden concentration on football did not mean that the glory of a recent wonderful cricket season was forgotten. It simply illustrated how the minds of boys fasten on the thing of immediate importance. They would cheer for the cricketers when their turn came again in the spring. Now the thing that mattered was football.

IN THE THREE years between 1926 and 1928, Ridley's footballers won an important Little Big Four Football championship in one of the two seasons in which the full inter-school schedule could be played. In 1928 there was a disruption by a polio epidemic. Both Ridley and T.C.S. had polio cases, with U.C.C. and St. Andrew's immune, which decided them not to take risks; they cancelled their annual rugby encounters with the two infected schools. Ridley and T.C.S. felt they could not infect each other, so they played their annual game. U.C.C. and St. Andrew's played a game, also. But the record clearly had to show, "No championship declared."

The cancellations were probably wise, but Ridley's Old Boys admitted this begrudgingly; they felt polio had robbed the orange and black of another football championship. The 1928 football team had played several games before the school cancellations and were so strong they had defeated the heavier, more experienced Alpha Delta Phi team which had no less than eight Varsity first-team men in uniform. To review the three football years:

In 1926 prospects had been poor for the football team from the outset; only two old colours of 1925 were still at Ridley as a base for the new team. A long spell of wet weather then hampered the training of all football teams in Ontario, but the handicap was perhaps stiffer for a new and untried team. For the first time since 1918 Ridley lost two inter-school matches in one year: Trinity College School and St. Andrew's both beat them. ("That was a shocker; we were dazed all that winter.") There was some consolation for them in the annual Old Boys match because better, and more continuous football skill was displayed in this 1926 game than in any encounter of the previous six or seven years. The bulk of the Old Boys' team was representative of the best of Ridley football in recent seasons, and if there was much puffing, grunting and wincing from slightly out-of-condition Old Boys, they staged a wonderful stand before accepting defeat. Visions of great Ridley football battles of the past were conjured by that formidable line-up: Don Buchanan, Gord Chaplin, Lloyd Chapple, Earl Davey, Jimmy Neeve, Norman Counsell (all of the 1925 firsts), Jim McCallum, Ernest Grobba, Sam McCormack, Art Phillips (all of 1924); Reg Moritz (1923); Everett Barker, Alex Porter, Barry Brent and Trethewey of older teams.

Then, in 1927 Ridley achieved another of those remarkable reversals in a single year for which the School's teams were noted in both cricket and football, generally to the surprise of their rivals. The autumn weather was perfect; the spirit of the team developed very early under football captain Billy Bell, with the mood on them of championship teams of the past long before the first test on October 1. They were a "hungry" team; Ridley had not won a football championship since 1922.

Bell was the sole third-year man and the most experienced on the team; he had no fourth-year players, but six second-year men formed his nucleus. His eight first-year boys rounded rapidly into shape and several were stars from the first kick-off. The immediate claim to fame of this great 1927 team was that they defeated their three school rivals in the Little Big Four more decisively than a Ridley team had ever before achieved – U.C.C. 17-1, St. Andrew's 40-1 and T.C.S. 50-0. It was only slowly realized that theirs was a key championship in the history of Ridley football and that 1927 had produced a turn-of-the-tide team, just as 1912 had done for football before the war and 1911 had done for cricket.

The proof of their strength was in that total of 107 points scored against Upper Canada, T.C.S. and St. Andrew's, *with only 2 points by all three teams*

scored against them! Ridley had achieved clean sweeps before but none like this one. Had it not been for Ridley's over-eagerness, and unnecessary off-sides, they might have won the LBF Football Championship of 1927 without a single point scored against them.

"We do not wish to boast, but it is only fair to say that rarely, if ever, had a Ridley football team shown such splendid work on the field," said the football reporter proudly. He gave credit to Billy Bell: "It was largely due to Bell and his untiring work that the team reached such a high state of efficiency." ("That was more than efficiency," exclaimed an Old Boy. "It was damned near football perfection.") The truth was that until the arrival on the football scene of Alex Hayes who was already at Ridley ('26-'30) the School had not known many footballers of Bill Bell's calibre since the Laddie Cassels era before the war. Bell went on to quarterback great Varsity teams, never weighing more than 135-140 pounds. To see him playing against Argonauts' heavy-weights was something to fill both Ridley and Varsity hearts with pride.

The members of Ridley's memorable championship team of 1927 were (with comments by *Acta*) –

W. E. N. Bell, captain; quarter – "A player of very high order; the lightest man on the team, he kept the team working fast; in many ways the best quarter the School has ever had, and by all means the most versatile."

G. Hardy, centre-half – "A punter of great ability, a sure catch, a fine open-field runner and a tireless worker."

A. M. Hayes, left-half – "A splendid drop-kicker; always gave his best."

A. T. Steel, left-half – "Played flying wing last year, but out with injured foot. He replaced Hayes in the T.C.S. match and did well. Good ball handler and tackler."

C. F. Robinson, right middle – "A strong line-man; aggressive in both offence and defence."

R. B. Fisher, left middle – "Tireless and effective on defence; a splendid line plunger."

V. A. Subosits, right outside – "A splendid tackler in open field work; he broke up many plays by ability to sense the point of attack."

Note: All the above were second-year men except Bell who alone was third-year. The following were the eight first-year men.

W. J. Slanker, right-half – "Very fast and strong runner. Good hands."

C. A. Thompson, flying wing – "A beautiful runner and tackler; in every play; combined with the backs."

D. T. Smith, left inside – "A strong line man in every way. Broke up many plays; gains by plunging."

F. B. Mercer, right inside – "A strong line plunger; one of the best men on the team for close-in combination work."

H. R. Millichamp, left outside – "Very fast; strong in breaking up end runs."

E. S. Fischer, centre scrim – "Strong tackler; very fast following down under kicks."

W. S. Kernohan, left scrim – "Never allowed gains through his position. His spirit and enthusiasm meant much to the team."

W. R. Stringer, right scrim – “Always in his position, and combined with Kernohan to give the team one of the strongest line centres we have ever had.”

The Spares: They were M. C. Brockbank, H. E. Griffiths and J. F. Clark. They each played at intervals and all filled in so well they were certain strong players for 1928.

The team's brand of football not only had all the Old Boys in a glow of pride, it also inspired enthusiasm in many football fans who were not Ridleyans. The sports editor of Toronto's *Mail & Empire* was one of these ardent non-Ridley admirers. On his sports page for November 7, 1927, he lauded the prowess of the Ridley rugby team to support his contention that the football rules of Canadian rugby needed no change. As usual, a controversy about the rules was raging. Ridley's coaches and football committee had been declaring all along that it was not the rules but their interpretation which required alteration. This confirmation and applause in the *Mail & Empire* thus made good reading for Ridleyans –

“... the Ridley-T.C.S. game at Varsity stadium on Saturday backs up the supporters of the present code.

“Ridley ran up the record score of the Canadian season (to date), 50-0, but not because T.C.S. were that much weaker. The winners had their team play timed to perfection and they kept the ball so well hidden behind the line that not only their opponents, but the spectators lost track of it until the ball carrier was well on his way, either through the line or around the end.

“The mixing up of the plays had a lot to do with Ridley's success, as the defence was not able to mass in any particular spot.

“The way that Ridley handled the ball was a treat to watch.

“If those in charge of the senior teams were to make the most of the rules as they are at present, it is likely there would be less talk of changes to open up the play.

“While the Little Big Four season is over, fans would be well advised to make a note to attend as many of the Prep School games as possible next fall.”

Ridley quite naturally basked in this applause from such an informed and keen observer of the game. The School and the Old Boys knew that much credit was due to Mr. Griffith's remarkable ability to inspire his teams. It was the extra factor in his drilling in ball handling, tackling and play rehearsals; he helped give them a will to win which was often irresistible.

The following summary of Ridley's football fortunes in these three years (1926-8) discloses that Ridley won 14 games while losing 5, scoring 368 points with 120 against them. The memorable season of 1927 was, of course, the big year.

THE VICTORIES, 1926

(W. B. Bennett, football captain)

Ridley vs Trinity College	27-8
" vs Hamilton Central Collegiate	15-0
" vs Upper Canada	13-2
" vs Old Boys	11-6

DEFEATS

" vs Hamilton Delta Collegiate	11-13
" vs Trinity College School	5-6
" vs St. Andrew's	2-24

THE VICTORIES, 1927 (CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR)

(W. E. N. Bell, football captain)

Ridley vs United Colleges	20-1
" vs Old Boys	21-4
" vs Upper Canada	17-1
" vs St. Andrew's	40-1
" vs T.C.S.	50-0

THE DEFEAT

" vs Hamilton Delta Collegiate	3-17
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THE VICTORIES, 1928 (POLIO YEAR)

(G. L. Hardy, football captain)

Ridley vs North Toronto Collegiate	36-0
" vs Trinity College	40-9
" vs Alpha Delta Phi	7-1
" vs Trinity College	18-5
" vs Trinity College School	25-1

THE DEFEAT

" vs Hamilton Delta Collegiate	7-11
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The significance of the 1927 championship was the trend it began. Since the start of Little Big Four football Ridley had won eight championships in the twenty-seven seasons; she now won another eight in the next ten years (1929-38).

After football, there was always that six-nearly-seven-mile slogging test, of course. The pressure-policy for full participation in the Cross-Country Run ("Ridley expects every man to do his duty – and to run") was not yet fully effective but it was seriously at work. There was so much persuasive strength

in “compulsion by expectation” that before long only the boy in the School hospital would avoid the all-school run in November’s mud.

The race on November 15, 1926, went true to form; heavy rain preceded it for several days and the course was ankle-deep – or deeper – in mud or slush. Despite this, W. R. Stringer won the senior award in faster time than the winners in several previous years. The response was wonderful; of 180 boys in the Upper School, 153 started through the mud. That only 130 finished was blamed on the “great race at the store” – those who dropped out to regale themselves at “Joe’s” while they rehearsed an alibi. In 1927 good weather prevailed and Stringer won again, in still faster time but on a changed course and against a much larger field of runners.

CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONS, 1926-7-8

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Lower School</i>
1926	W. R. Stringer (40.32)	G. F. McAvity	D. L. Innes	D. A. Mackenzie I
1927	W. R. Stringer (40.05)	H. D. Campbell	F. C. Lawson	F. M. O’Flynn
1928	J. F. Clark (47.30)	N. L. Thomas II	C. A. Conway	W. Piper

Note: The finish between Piper and Hunter in the Lower School race (1928) was so close that Piper only caught Hunter as they came through Gooderham House arch. Hunter had been third to O’Flynn the year before and deserved a better fate.

Old Boys caution us that reference to the time of winners of the Cross-Country should not be related to the times of other years; the course was repeatedly changing. It was longer in 1927 and 1928 than in previous years because the course had been brought back to a route that had been familiar long before. Variations had occurred ever since the footbridge over Twelve Mile Creek at the power plant had fallen in. In 1927, to get the runners over the canal, for instance, the run was routed under the Burgoyne Bridge. Because of new filling there the runners could return to the flats along the canal below the Lower School for both the outward trip and the finish-run. Use was also made of a pathway through the old Kinleith Paper plant, then over a footbridge across old Lock 3 below the Glen Ridge bridge. In this way the course in 1927-8 was the same as it was in 1921 but a far cry from the open country of 1891 or even 1901. The variations in the course since 1921 were all close to home.

THE results of the matriculation examinations were never known in time for Prize Day, and it was often late in the year before the School (below the Fifth and Sixth) knew how the seniors had fared. When they were at last announced for the impatient Upper School in 1928, there was particularly deep satisfaction for Principal Griffith and his masters. A triumph for Ridley and her way of life could be seen. All influences on boys from the feverish atmosphere of the social scene were working against the habit of study, and the mood of the times scorned anything so dull and prosaic as academic ambitions for a boy. The old sensible incentives were sadly weakened. It is thus a tribute to the steadiness of Ridley in a tempestuous time, and to the sound character of her internal atmosphere, that over one hundred Ridley boys should write a total of more than 600 papers in the Honour and Pass matriculation examinations in 1928. At Ridley the incentive to study was still strong. Of the hundred who wrote various matriculation papers, fifteen wrote on Honour alone, and sixty-seven wrote on Pass alone, with twenty-one boys writing some of each.

Those who were successful in passing papers in the Honour matriculation examinations were: W. E. N. Bell (7); J. M. Berwick mi (3 and 1 Pass); E. P. Coy (1 and 6 Pass); J. H. Gray (3 and 1 Pass); L. E. Hanson ma (4); J. D. Heaman (3 and 5 Pass); H. C. M. Heuser ma (4 and 7 Pass); J. S. Hoyles (1); E. P. Innes (2 and 5 Pass); W. S. Kernohan (5); T. P. Lownsborough (9); H. R. Millichamp (3 and 3 Pass); F. C. Nivin (3); A. T. Olmsted (1 and 11 Pass); J. H. O'Flynn (10); A. C. Proctor (5); C. F. Robinson (3); J. P. Rapsey (3 and 6 Pass); D. E. Rutherford (2 and 1 Pass); D. M. Ross (1 and 4 Pass); F. B. Schuch (3 and 6 Pass); W. R. Stringer (6); C. A. Thompson (4) and B. S. Wallace (5 and 1 Pass).

It is worth noting that 65 per cent of the Pass papers written were marked first or second class. All of these were from the Fifth Form. The record of A. T. Olmsted's success, with one Honour and eleven Pass papers, was singled out as particularly splendid for he received nine firsts and two seconds on his twelve papers. H. R. Holland wrote six Pass examinations and was given six firsts. J. C. Denison, S. G. Fearman, J. H. Gibson and R. W. Reville – all Fifth Formers – won five firsts from seven papers each.

Such an answer by her Fifth and Sixth Formers to the psychological assault on human values by the Roaring Twenties could only mean that the character of Ridley, and her influence on her boys, had been the perfect insulation. That blare and jingle-jangle must have been only a far-off discordancy to the boys who were seriously seeking academic success. There was nothing wrong with their values and their belief held firm that self-respect was the key to a serene mind and a full and satisfying adult life.

The Economic Collapse

“Stock-market crashes were not enough to jolt Ridley confidence; in defiance of the bleak financial outlook, the Board of Governors continued to discuss further expansion. . . .”

AS THE FATEFUL year of 1929 opened with the wildest New Year celebrations the cities of the continent had yet seen, and with the tempo of the Roaring Twenties at a crescendo, there was no hint that the false prosperity would suddenly evaporate and that the chattering machines rolling out the ticker-tape in the stock exchanges would soon race but would fail to keep pace with the speed by which paper-millions were vanishing.

When the shock came of the stock-market crash which heralded the economic collapse of 1929, Ridley was busy and prospering in her splendid isolation and could look on at first with impersonal fascination. Like Canada itself the School did not believe for some time that an economic blight was about to descend like a smothering pall on the century's most careless decade. Ridley felt the reverberations over the radio and in the newspaper reports. That something of dismaying gravity was taking place in the outside world could not be missed even by a small boy in the Lower School. The newspapers which had been magnifying little sordid sensations to ridiculous proportions for circulation purposes were now hysterical, with their front-pages looking like billboards as they reported the panic which was closing banks and shutting down factories.

It subdued Ridley a little perhaps, but that was the only reaction for a considerable time.

The social observers have still not ceased to examine the 1920s to assess the amazing period's loss or gain to society. Because of its impact on parental attitudes and student behaviour, the educators have also studied it, especially any lasting reaction. Anthropologist Edward Sapir has summed up the demand by youth for freedom of dissent in the clash with the moralists as one which was basically against all that was hard, narrow and intolerant. He was

right only to a degree; he was too willing to excuse the irresponsibility and sheer selfishness of the radical younger generation. They probably did not know just what they did want; they seemed to be seeking a future free of cant, repression and provincialism, but too many of them were actually demanding Freedom Uninhibited, without responsibility even to the society in which they lived.

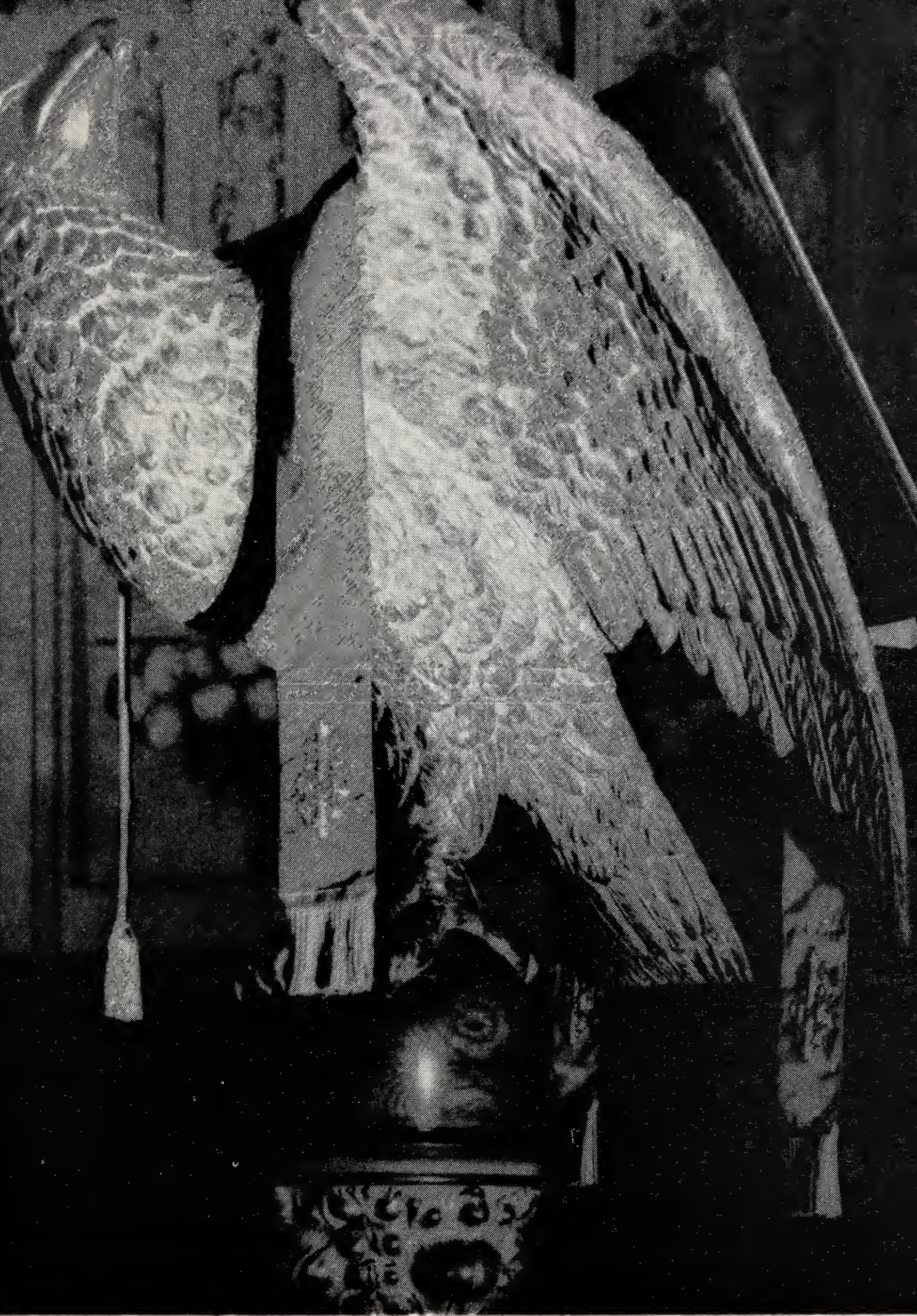
Many conservative Canadians, bred in a wholesome atmosphere of moderation and commonsense, may have known too strict an interpretation of what constitutes good behaviour, but they were of the opinion even by the early Thirties that the cynicism, audacious irresponsibility, ignorance and license of the Twenties were poor replacements of the bigotry, intolerance and hardness of the moralists against whom youth rebelled.

A change in social viewpoint was achieved, but radical intellectualism lost because commonsense was soon able to take over once more. The basic soundness of people of principle was never destroyed and in a remarkably short time had begun to restore sanity. It is a truth seldom remembered now that church attendance had not fallen during the Roaring Twenties. Youth went off on new tangents, for the younger generation had discovered its strength, but now the case for Uninhibited Freedom crashed with the stock market. The young radicals had neglected to supply a new, comprehensive philosophy or view of man and his place in society, to replace the old verities of their fathers which they had scorned. They ignored the truth that a sense of responsibility must be linked with freedom, or freedom is lost.

To give the young radicals their full due, F. Scott Fitzgerald was echoing deeper thinkers when he said that youth would probably never again feel its surroundings so intensely and that creatively and intellectually the Roaring Twenties were the most important years of the century. The new spirit of youth could be seen in the cynical, if inspiring, feeling that they could do anything. It spurred people to attempt things they would not have tried a few years earlier. But the new intelligentsia were trying to move society to a base of cold materialism, and that would not do. If a combination of responsibility to others and of human sympathy and love of humanity had been incorporated, the Roaring Twenties could have been modern history's finest social decade. In other words, the young iconoclasts needed the solid base of Christian principles.

It was these principles which were never shaken at Ridley.

The younger boys were unaware that Ridley's ideals were even threatened, but their masters knew. No thinking adult could have failed to see the threat in the widespread contempt for conventions as well as for the laws of the land; the masters of Ridley must have known deep relief when the Roaring Twenties ceased to roar. They knew, however, that the boys who graduated in 1929 were basically just as honourable and straight-thinking as those of Prize Day in 1919 or 1909.



The Lectern

1927

Little
Big Four
Football
Champions



U.C.C. 1; Ridley 17 St. Andrew's 1; Ridley 40 T.C.S. 0; Ridley 50
Centre: Mr. H. C. Griffiths; W. E. N. Bell, captain; Mr. Mel Brock. *Rear oval:* G. L. Hardy, centre-half; Alex Hayes, left-half; E. S. Fischer, scrim; W. G. Slanker, right-half; W. R. Stringer, scrim; C. F. Robinson, right-middle; F. B. Mercer, right inside; R. B. Fisher, left-middle; D. T. Smith, left-inside; W. S. Kernohan, flying wing; C. A. Thompson, flying wing; V. A. Subosits, right outside; H. R. Millichamp, left outside; A. T. Steel, left-half. *In front (subs):* G. A. Woods; M. G. Mather; J. F. Clark; J. C. Harvey; J. A. McMullen; M. C. Brockbank; H. E. Griffiths and J. H. McQuarrie.

There was one factor which Ridley could not escape – the changed attitude of some parents, especially some mothers. This was partly because a few otherwise sensible parents had been so frightened by the rebellion of youth against all forms of repression that they over-indulged their sons, and either let go the check-rein of control entirely or turned over all responsibility to Principal Griffith and his masters. One really troublesome element was the ridiculously overdone craze for child psychology, with some mothers checking their dreams with Havelock Ellis and quoting charlatan and reputable psychologist alike as their absolute authority on child-rearing. Boys should not be repressed in their normal impulses. They must be permitted to express themselves. The strap and the cane were relics of the Dark Ages. Mr. Griffith was on the phone so frequently talking diplomatically about child psychology to mothers who were experts after reading one book on human emotions that he called it, “An affliction of modern school principalship.”

If Ridley and the other boys’ boarding schools in Canada escaped many of the reactions on boys which the public and high schools knew in the cities, parental attitude was a common problem for all. Ridley’s masters had the advantage of twenty-four-hour contact with a disturbed or bitter boy, but many psychological factors arising in his home could thwart them in their sincere effort to equip a boy mentally to meet the challenge of life. There would be a new stiff challenge for youth now – to their moral courage and self-confidence.

STOCK-MARKET crashes were not enough to jolt Ridley confidence; in defiance of the bleak financial outlook, the Board of Governors continued to discuss further expansion and needed alterations in the Upper School buildings, and to proceed to do something about them. The following are notes derived from the minutes of a Board meeting in late 1929 before the full impact of the economic collapse was felt, with its duration certainly still unseen, yet this discussion took place at the very moment when many financial boards were frantically trying to shore up the crumbling foundations of their collapsing commercial structures:

Colonel Bishop spoke of the need of changes and alterations to the Upper School buildings. Mr. Griffith went further. He pointed out that, with one hundred and seventy-nine boarders and seven day-boys, the Upper School was full to overflowing. Needed were class rooms, a laboratory, extra dormitory space, alterations to the kitchens and servants’ quarters, and a general remodelling of School House.

The Board acted. Colonel Bishop was appointed chairman of still another building committee, and plans were soon forcefully under way for a new fourth house despite this extract from the minutes which discloses the atten-

tion it was necessary to give to Ridley's finances to take care of current indebtedness:

\$25,000 of School money was invested in February 1930 in a short-term bond from the Security Loan Corporation in St. Catharines, and at the same time the College bought a \$10,000 County of Middlesex bond from the Dominion Securities Corporation, as part of a sinking fund to meet the Ridley bonds which were to mature in 1934.

The confidence in Ridley and in Canada evident in the Board's discussions and financial decisions in 1929 and 1930 had a base of good reason. Ridley's peak year in student attendance was 1929 when 296 boys were registered in the spring for both Upper and Lower Schools. It was an all-time record high. This dropped slightly to 287 for September, 1929, but there was reassurance in the attendance in September, 1930; it was still at a comparatively safe 258 students. They had feared a far more drastic drop.

There was thus cause for the astute financiers on Ridley's Board of Governors to feel in 1929-30 that Ridley would survive the Great Depression (still underestimated) with far less trouble than was actually to be experienced. Ridley was later hit, and hit hard. There were men on the Board who knew at first hand something of the chaotic economic situation in the country in 1930, but they probably did not foresee how long it would be before economic recovery could bring the upswing. If they had done so it seems doubtful (at this distance) to see how they could have proceeded to build a new dormitory building during 1931 to be opened in 1932 when the Great Depression was in its worst depths and Ridley herself had reason for twinges of sheer panic.

This new addition to Ridley, erected at such an unusual time, had great trouble finding a name. None was suggested when this first planning was done. Ridley's fourth house remained nameless until just before it was occupied.

If there was dissension and protest on the Board as the new Ridley building went up and the economic fortunes of Canada and the rest of the world went down and down, such views were not recorded in the minutes. This formal record was soon thick with operational worries and evidence of almost chronic financial migraine, but the Board refused to entertain proposals that construction of the new dormitory should be stopped once it was started. All through the years the motto of Ridley's Board of Directors could well have been: *We Finish What We Start*. This time it looked merely stubborn; they finished the new dormitory and had no boys to live in it.

If grave matters were occupying the minds of the local Board at St. Catharines and of the main Board at Toronto, the boys of Ridley were too busy and engrossed with their daily round of activities to be affected. A boy's

pocket-money was always of far more personal consequence than the Canadian national debt.

THE hockey season of 1929 made inter-school history, when Ridley and Trinity College School teams clashed for the first time in their nearly forty years of athletic rivalry. (The Port Hope school had been burned out.) The first game was played at Ridley before the entire population of the School, for T.C.S. was given a typical, warm Ridley welcome. Ridley won 9-4, but the game was better than the score might indicate. ("Seagram was the only one to draw a penalty, and that was calling things pretty fine, for his trip was not wholly his fault; his opponent tangled himself up in the sticks.") The return game was in the arena at Woodstock, a larger ice-surface than Ridley's home rink. Ridley won again 5-2. The teams of these history-making matches deserve recording:

Trinity College School: Howard, goal; Johnson and Nichol, defence; Roper, centre; Elliot and Wyley, wings; Robertson and Dudley, subs.

Ridley College: Fischer, goal; Subosits and Seagram, defence; Hayes, centre; Bell and Griffiths, wings; Innes and Carson, subs.

On the season Ridley did well. They won 8, lost 2, scored 65 goals, with 32 scored against them. Kappa Alpha and Theta Delta Chi both defeated them, with Frank Fisher and Grant Gordon of the famous *Varsity Grads* playing with Kappa Alpha.

In 1930 they were ready early in the winter to take up where the previous season had ended. Fischer had gone, to leave an open net, and Subosits left a hole in the defence when he also graduated in June, but no other colour men were lost. A long, busy season resulted because there was ice in the rink in early November and it was still playable in March. Prowse was tried in goal, but Owen supplanted him as the regular net-minder, and the big frame of Teague filled the skates of Subosits so well that he was like a stone wall.

Except for a loss in their first game of the season to Wentworth Radio, 3-5 and to Hamilton Central Collegiate in their fourth, 4-5, the rest of Ridley's 1930 hockey story was all victory – eleven wins against those two losses. Griffiths was the star marksman, reaching a peak against T.C.S. at Woodstock; and Clarke Bell, the team captain, at left wing, was a great play-maker, prominent in every game. All season he was dangerous each time he neared an opponent's net.

Highlights of the 1930 hockey contests, at least in the view of the team, were return matches against both T.C.S. and Upper Canada. Ridley downed T.C.S. easily, 10-2 and 10-0, and then beat Upper Canada 6-5 on Ridley's ice which secretly surprised Spark Bell and his team, and also U.C.C. The loss

at Ridley was attributed by U.C.C. to the small ice surface which led to confident boasts by Upper Canada fans about what was going to happen to Ridley on their own big ice surface at Toronto.

That second U.C.C.-Ridley game was a tense battle from the first whistle. Owen was peppered with pucks. ("Sometimes he was on his skates, sometimes on his head, and sometimes reclining across the net, pushing pucks out with his nose.") As it became apparent late in the first period that Owen would have to be swept away by the ice-cleaners if U.C.C. were to score, Bell for Ridley suddenly swung across the rigid U.C.C. defence and slipped the puck into the open side of the net. It was 1-0.

In the second period Hayes annoyed the U.C.C. forwards into sheer frustration with his deadly poke-check and Seagram "seemed to have cannibalistic ideas about stopping Blair". Teague was an immovable object when the U.C.C. forwards did break through the back-checkers. Score 2-2 at end of the second period.

The large ice surface did bother Ridley. Before the game Denison skated once around and then came back to Ridley's bench declaring he already needed a rest. But in the third period it was still a game for either side to win with a single goal. Strategist Mel Brock probably won the game. With the tie still holding late in the last period the U.C.C. first-string men unexpectedly found themselves playing tag with a Ridley line of substitutes, who skated furiously for a few moments, enough to take the steam out of the enemy's first line of attack. Then Mr. Brock sent in his first line. They too skated at top speed, quickly scored a goal – and won!

To Ridley those double victories over each of their rival schools were more momentous than their other seven wins that year. In addition, Ridley's hockey future looked bright; the second team won five out of their seven games, and the third team won three out of five. There was strength in the rear for tomorrow.

RIDLEY was still maintaining its old tradition as a singing school, especially among the smaller boys. Everyone sang in the Lower School. It was from Dr. Bett's junior singing classes that the angelic faces – on Sundays – of Ridley's Boys' Choir emerged, with each boy clad in a spotless surplice of white and a cassock of ecclesiastical purple. The Upper School was musical, too, with interest whetted by school concerts, the Glee Club, occasional instrumental recitals and their own school orchestra. The year 1924 had seemed to mark a belated postwar revival of Ridley music; there had been such concentration on musical attractions it was obviously official policy. A school orchestra was again organized by Mr. W. T. Thompson, Ridley's piano instructor, who had been unobtrusively connected with Ridley ever since

1900. An all-school instrumental musicale was staged in November, with Ridley's boy population the critical audience; it was so well done that Principal Griffith virtually ordered a repeat performance by Mr. Thompson's pupils before the public in the spring. Cornet solos by Moore II, piano and cello solos by M. Glassco and Robert Lyon, were again the star acts.

Interest in music was further fostered in 1924 by a pianoforte recital by Mr. C. Biggs in April and a cornet recital in November by Signor A. Liberali, once of the French Foreign Legion, which attracted Ridley boys in scores and sent them away to whistle his marches for weeks.

Another quiet organization to wield influence on Ridley's music was the Mozart Club, founded back in 1910 by Mr. Thompson. In 1929 and 1930 the club was still meeting in the homes of its St. Catharines members, with musically inclined Ridley boys often attending their musicales. One night in March, 1927 the group had given Ridley's boys an unforgettable sample of their music-making in the Assembly Hall, a surprising number of boys and the entire staff turning up. It was a refreshing evening and gave the boys a new appreciation of Mozart, the composers' composer. The Mozart enthusiasts to give instrumental selections included: Mr. Charles Kaye, Mrs. Ronald Macdonald, Mrs. Harper Wilson, Mr. Clayton Hare, Miss Lilian Stein, Miss Opal Smith, Mr. Stuart Watt, Miss Grace McDonnell, Miss Gertrude and Miss Catharine McLaughlin and, of course, Ridley's own Mr. Thompson. This musicale preceded that year's School Concert, which was enjoyed by all – "Even those who sat thinking betimes of the Principal's dreaded French exam due first thing in the morning."

This school concert must not be confused with the New Boys' Concert, a medley of music of a sort, volunteer stage acts, enforced speeches and hilarity. This hugely enjoyed if now somewhat formal event had developed from the days when a new boy was captured and forced to sing a song which, in turn, had replaced more rugged initiation ceremonies. Nowadays, a concert was held in the Assembly Hall, and new boys must still offer entertainment. It always provided a high-spirited, noisy and gay evening. With desperately mustered courage each new boy must sing, recite, play an instrument or even dance. Do something he must. Excellent instrumentalists were often displayed; the xylophone, saxophone, violin, piano, banjo and drums were heard, and some surprisingly fine skits were enacted. In 1926, for instance, Albinson had offered a fine female impersonation; Dunc Clark recited satirical verse on the Sixth Form; Skene did a skit entitled the *Winigar Woiks* and Hardy and Eastwood mi sang solos. Those who had somehow escaped initiation in any previous year were forced to make speeches under the pressure of ribald hecklers. (*Acta's* critic in 1928: "Most of the good acts come near the beginning . . . this should be rectified by the Directors of Operations.")

The entertainment at the New Boys' concerts ranged from fairly good to

bad; in 1928 it had been rated bad. In the next year the programme improved, but in 1930 the entertainment was again given low marks. The critics probably forgot that entertainment by compulsion is not insurance that brilliant thespians or skilled musicians will be uncovered. However, the New Boys' Concert was one of the Ridley functions which would serve a purpose for awhile and would then disappear. Before many years, authority forgot to organize the concert, generally held in February, and it vanished. It was hardly missed.

The Glee Club was, of course, the oldest and most permanent of all Ridley's musical efforts; it was still staging concerts for the entertainment of the School in December or March or both. They were always enjoyed because all could join in the choruses. Even if a boy could not sing, he could imagine he was singing as he roared choruses. This had been the great attraction in the early Nineties when Ridley was unquestionably a singing school. A feature of the Glee Club programme in 1928 was Mr. Bett's Boys' Choir from the Lower School. Their sweet young voices were perhaps most effective in the chapel on Sundays, but the Glee Club audiences loved them, too.

One of the most earnest and hard-working of all after-class groups – and one whose members won but fleeting fame with never a shining cup or medal or brave shield presented to lay away with their Ridleian souvenirs – was the Dramatic Society. By 1930 their prolonged postwar effort to answer their personal attraction to the stage, and to entertain the School at the same time, was bearing satisfying fruit. They were producing well-staged, well-directed plays, with a professional touch here and there. The Dramatic Society had disclosed as early as 1921 that it had been re-born after the war. Mr. C. E. H. Thomas had returned from war service and by this year was able to stage his first ambitious postwar effort in amateur theatricals. He had been the spark to them before the war and still was. In 1930 the Society's production of *Vice Versa*, a difficult but well-acted and well-staged play, marked a sort of climax to the series offered at well-spread intervals in 1921, 1925 and 1928. In the gaps, interest did not lag; the boys' involvement in so many other activities made casting a problem, not for the play, but for the arduous, time-consuming rehearsals.

*Whence and why this fearful groanin'
From the room of Mr. Cronyn?
Gasps and yells and grinding groans,
Quite enough to freeze your bones.
Terrific thuds like falling men
Come and go, and come again;
Awful moans and piercing screams
Echo through the stalwart beams.*

*Masters and prefects found all was O.K.,
'Twas only the boys rehearsing the play.*

— John Drake

A review of the postwar work of Ridley's thespians must begin with that winter back in 1921 when they produced an hilarious farce, *What Happened to Jones*, and discovered that an audience of boys have their own ideas of who were the star performers. Mr. Brockwell's stage-setting and Mr. Thomas' directing both had a professional touch; the boys politely applauded Nipper (G. J.) Cliff, who seemed a born farceur as Jones, and also Kingsmill as The Professor and Smith as the Bishop of Ballarat; but they did not captivate the boys. The "girls" did. The audience reserved its most thunderous applause for Robinson as the ravishing Cissie, Butler as the stately Minerva, Glassco as Helma and particularly for Law who played the part of Alvina Starlight. In the boys' view Alvina stole the show from the intended stars.

Such enthusiasm had greeted *What Happened to Jones* that the Dramatic Society had ambitions to produce one big play each year, but they were frustrated. The trained actors kept graduating and too many other things demanded the boys' time. It was not until 1925 that Mr. Thomas could come back with another major production. This time it was a musical farce which burlesqued mythology, entitled *So This Is Hades!* Mr. Thomas was author-producer; Mr. Bett wrote the music and St. Catharines musicians played; but all acting parts were taken by the boys – twenty of them. With only one or two female impersonators there was a grave risk, but the boys enjoyed it. The action of *So This is Hades* can be visualized by the changing scenes: Scene I, *The Stygian Regions*; Scene II, *A Houseboat in Hades*; Scene III, *Pluto's Judgment Throne*. When the great night came it was raining heavily, and there were important counter attractions, but the St. Catharines theatre where their play was staged was nearly filled with such an enthusiastic audience that the night seemed adequate recompense for many weeks of rehearsal.

Forbes West played three parts, all well: Hermes, Julius Caesar and Pluto, Judge of the Underworld. F. C. Tilley seemed to enjoy playing Charon on the stage as much as he did being a gladiator in the boxing class, and he was probably a better actor than a boxer. There was applause by the theatre critic for S. O. Greening as Hercules and the scholarly G. K. Masters as his slave, and also for W. D. Brooks as a rather rakish Antony. But again the boys' most vociferous applause was for a female impersonation – J. G. Eastwood as an entrancing Cleopatra.

There was another gap, this time of two years, before Mr. Thomas and Mr. Brockwell found the courage to tackle another production. On April 27, 1928,

the Dramatic Society staged a play also written by Mr. Thomas, which they had rehearsed most of the winter term. It was *Scenes from Pickwick*, taken of course from Dickens' famous *Papers*. The action of the play centred around the civil court action, *Bardell vs. Pickwick*, which all lovers of Dickens know. In a long review of the play, Mr. Comber lauded the singing of Mr. Sherrell and F. B. Mercer of the *Ode To An Expiring Frog*; the fine acting of J. C. Harvey as the immortal Pickwick; of Victor Siebs and Leo Dorfman as the two Wellers, and of Ballantyne as Sergeant Buzzfuzz and, not the least, of Hume Cronyn as the Judge.

The Lower School was out in full force for the play, all dressed up in Eton jackets. Their Mr. Brockwell and Mr. Terence Cronyn were stage managers and, besides, who could play the role of Mrs. Bardell's imp of a son more naturally than their own Alan Little?

If the Dramatic Society then realized that public appreciation of Dickens' humour divides sharply between those who are either great enthusiasts and those who are frankly bored, they had at least discovered a wonderful actor, Hume Cronyn. On May 5, 1930, their play *Vice Versa* was centred around Hume and his role Dick Bultitude, and as Dick's father, Paul, in the last act. "Hume Cronyn played the lead and too much cannot be said for the quality of his performance," said Ridley's theatre critic. "He took a long and difficult part with the greatest ease, and established himself as the ablest actor in recent years at Ridley."

The play was ideal for Ridley for it required much participation by the boys. In the huge cast supporting Cronyn in 1930 were: L. W. Skey, W. M. Cameron, G. C. Pauline, R. W. Reville, P. L. Slaght, J. H. Gibson, W. F. Greenwood, R. P. Baldwin, E. G. Chown, E. K. McDougall, R. Rogers, D. J. Byers, D. A. Mackenzie, T. H. Orr, G. P. Cushing, R. W. Mitchell, F. D. Gooderham, G. M. Wilmot, R. E. Morrow, R. C. Ripley, F. H. Buck, R. S. Hart, R. M. Archer and R. C. Ramsden.

THE SCHOOL'S CRICKET SKILL MAINTAINED

RIDLEY's bats kept ringing and their bowlers went right on devastating their opponents – with the odd exception, of course – as two more Little Big Four championships were written into their sports story in 1929 and 1930. After their first match in 1929 it looked as if there would be no exceptions; it was against a group of flannelled visitors, the St. George Cricket Club, who arrived with a tremendous reputation, but the School XI were rude hosts. It had been raining almost daily for a month, but the sun was out and their sheer joy in smashing the ball freely caused Ridley to forget that the host-club should deal gently with guests. Billy Bell was gone, but his brother Clarke

kept a Bell bat lashing out runs. ("Bell's bat had not lost any of the viciousness of last year, which made the ball go whistling past the covers.") He scored 23. Fischer was still a master craftsman; he made 60 runs. Phil (P. F.) Seagram was wielding a bat on Ridley's cricket pitch for the first time; he scored 13, enough to hint he might be one of Ridley's cricket greats. Most unmannerly of all was G. L. Hardy. He stayed at the wicket for one hour and passed his century. He went to 102. ("It was the Fender style of innings, executed with the muscle of Mann of Middlesex.") Ridley defeated their guests 243-41.

Hardy's century was Ridley's thirteenth.

Because of this rousing start in 1929 all hands were astonished with the first sharp exception to Ridley's march of cricket triumph. They lost unexpectedly to T.C.S. Trinity College School went in first and managed only 71 runs for the innings, which persuaded the proud Ridley XI this would be another easy victory. It is not taking anything away from Mickle, Trinity's fine bowler, to say that Ridley's biggest bats collapsed at the wicket. Only Fischer (cricket captain in 1929) and Mather reached a score in double figures. Such powerful bats as those of Clarke Bell and Phil Seagram were silenced after only 2 runs each. Mickle bowled a superlative game; 12 of his 17 overs were maidens, and he took 5 wickets for 14 runs. Ridley batted feebly and were lucky to reach 60 before the tenth wicket fell. Score: Lost to T.C.S. 60-71.

Ridley then defeated St. Andrew's and Upper Canada in turn, with their old skill and batting power restored. Spark (Clarke) Bell's bat kept smashing out runs in both games. He scored a 55 against Upper Canada. In this match Ridley batted first and made a respectable 139, with the Subosits and Powell batting partnership successfully making the last 20 runs. Upper Canada had a stylish batsman, Keeley, who batted to expectations; he scored 46 runs, including 7 fours with blows to the leg boundary. With 90 for 5 it looked as if Upper Canada might win, but Mather and Hardy began bowling beautifully. They got the tenth wicket with Upper Canada still 23 runs short.

There was an incident of fine sportsmanship in the St. Andrew's match that year which Ridley remembered long, every detail of it. Both teams were tense before the match for they sensed this game could mean the championship. To St. Andrew's it would mean not only their first victory-sweep – *but their first cricket championship*.

They had achieved at long last a split championship with Ridley in 1923, which was as close as they had come to the elusive honour since 1906 when they had won another split championship. That was the total pay for St. Andrew's for 28 seasons of cricket endeavour, which speaks of the school's great difficulty in sustaining cricket interest and of a most laudable earnest persistence. Their three rival schools sincerely appreciated the courage of St. Andrew's cricketers who fought so vainly year after year with never word of excuse or complaint.

The complete frustration which St. Andrew's had known on the cricket pitch made their gesture of fine sportsmanship in 1929 all the more praiseworthy; an honourable decision by Grant, St. Andrew's captain, tossed away the most elusive thing in St. Andrew's athletic history – a cricket championship of the Little Big Four. But he would not win unfairly.

The sportsmanlike episode occurred at a moment when Ridley's batsmen seemed to be checked. When a ball hit Seagram's bat the St. Andrew's captain, Grant, refused to allow a l.b.w. decision against Seagram. Seagram then went on to score 53, and Ridley went on to tally a total of 239 runs, sealing defeat for St. Andrew's. ("The action of Grant restored our faith in the game. . . . It did more; it lifted the match out of the rut of championship cricket and made it one to be remembered, not for the winning, but for the atmosphere which surrounded it." – *Acta*.)

The only recompense was that St. Andrew's could still win a half-championship, with Ridley taking the other half. The best St. Andrew's could do in their innings was a score of 114.

Spark Bell won the batting prize on the season, with 227 runs in 5 innings for an average of 45.4. (His nickname, "Spark", was soon to be known wherever cricket was played in Canada.)

The Old Boys' match also had a feature of its own. Some of their players were neither old nor Old Boys, and one of these, E. P. Coy, borrowed from the second XI, forgot he was expected to deal gently with the School. Mill Jarvis and Tom Merritt scored 14 runs each but a most humiliating defeat stared the School in the face when Coy went in and scored 41 runs, nearly half their total of 88. The School then scored 110 for 3 wickets. (They forgave Coy for the scare and voted him his colours in 1930.)

With Spark Bell appointed cricket captain the 1930 season was exhilarating and highly successful despite losses to St. Catharines' C.C., 80-103 and to Rosedale, 148-168, because they then swept over their three rival schools for an undisputed championship. Phil Seagram's century (102) against Buffalo West Side C.C. was the batting feature.

It was Ridley's fourteenth century.

Here is the championship XI of 1930:

L. C. Bell, captain – "A very strong bat. He did his duty nobly in all three school games, scoring over 50 in each (probably a Little Big Four record). He had 76 vs U.C.C.; 63 vs T.C.S. and 50 vs St. Andrew's. His batting average of 62.5 was definitely a record for school cricket. He won H. H. Champ's prize for the most useful cricketer on the team."

A. M. Hayes – third year – "Improved batting; a strong all-round player. He scored 56 not out against St. Andrew's."

P. F. Seagram – second year – "Very strong defence and free hitting style. Had a century against Buffalo and scored 50 against St. Andrew's."

G. C. Powell – second year – "The best bowler on the Eleven. A great strength to the team."

- E. P. Coy* – first year – “Good scoring ability but lacked confidence.”
J. E. Kennedy – first year – “A sound bat and the best fielder on the team. He won Dr. Adam Wright’s seasonal fielding prize.”
H. E. Griffiths – first year – “A fair bat. Will improve. Splendid fielder.”
H. H. Peck – first year – “Useful bowler; fair bat.”
D. F. Teague – first year – “Good bowler; very hard-working fielder.”
W. M. Vaughan – first year – “A very promising bat.”
D. L. Clarke – first year – “Promising style and splendid change bowler.”

In the inter-school matches the first to be scheduled was the St. Andrew’s game but it had to be abandoned because of rain. Ridley then defeated T.C.S. on a big first innings score of 198 in a match dominated by Powell’s bowling and the bats of Seagram (49) and Bell (63). Then Ridley’s 164 in their first innings against Upper Canada was enough for victory. Powell took 8 wickets for 37 runs, and the U.C.C. total only reached 85. Ridley then defeated St. Andrew’s 201 for 6 to 98, for a clean-sweep season.

This was Clarke Bell’s last year. By far the outstanding feature of Ridley’s cricket in recent years had been the bats of the Bells. Clarke Bell’s 76 against U.C.C., 63 against T.C.S. and an even 50 against St. Andrew’s were probably more important in Ridley’s eyes than his pair of centuries in 1928, though in all years he demonstrated high-scoring consistency.

His batting average in 1930 had been an astonishing 62.5, based on 438 runs in only 9 innings. His brother had scored 504 runs in the season of 1928, but he did not have Clarke’s average; it was higher than the best that year in the entire Toronto and District League and easily a new Little Big Four record.

In combined tour and seasonal play over four years, Clarke Bell scored 2,538 runs, a figure which stood long. (*Postscript*: In the summer of 1929 Clarke Bell played with Toronto Cricket Club. In the semi-final match for the John Ross Robertson Cup the match was to be won and lost in the second innings. Bell’s score was 198 not out. His side could not stay with him, so the last wicket fell when he was within 14 of Somerville’s school record and short by only 28 runs of Lyon’s Canadian record.) An odd point emphasizes Clarke Bell’s batting power. In his highest scores of 1928 and 1929 he was not out; in tour play he was not out when he made his highest scores in three out of four years.

It was a good thing for Ridley that Phil Seagram was ready to step into Spark Bell’s place as top Ridley batsman. He had a fine batting average of 46.3 in 1930. He had actually scored a few more runs on the season than Bell (463 to Bell’s 438) but in 10 innings, not Bell’s 9 (who also had “not outs”).

When Clarke Bell left Ridley in June, 1930 it felt like the passing of a dynasty, which it was – the Bill and Clarke Bell cricket dynasty.

DESPITE the exhilaration of their cricket and rugby seasons in this time of economic disaster throughout the world, some boys of Ridley began to feel a personal impact from the stress of the Great Depression. Some Ridley-family fortunes were wiped out or drastically reduced. Such a tightening of belts was taking place through necessity or fear or both that the principal undercurrent to unsettle many boys was knowledge of insecurity at home. A few were secretly apprehensive about family ability to find next year's fees or even to pay those of the current term. Insecurity carried with it a lack of confidence, which was seriously undermining many a boy's ability to study, let alone to develop a personal trait of decisiveness. More and more boys were noted who hesitated to make decisions. They wanted to avoid responsibility, to leave any troubling or difficult thing to others to decide. The most serious reactions of the many adverse influences growing out of the Great Depression was this disturbing deterioration in self-reliance and self-confidence in youth. This, coupled with the sweeping trend toward socialistic government measures, would make security the main life-time target for far too many young Canadians within a few years. That unfortunate development was already on its way.

It caused soul-searching by the masters. Do we take too much responsibility in our teaching methods? Do we take our students by the hand instead of merely guiding and advising them on their search for knowledge? Should we place still more responsibility on a boy to see that he is educating himself? What can we do to instill self-reliance in a boy who is afraid for his family and of his own future?

It is remarkable that the repercussions of the economic upheaval did not hit Ridley earlier in her financial situation. That the School suffered only mildly through reduced fees in this first phase of the widespread adversity is both surprising and an explanation why the Board of Governors' confidence remained undisturbed for so long. No alarm bell had rung because school attendance dropped between 1929 and 1930; nothing seemed to warn that the drop would be a startling one hundred boys between 1929 and 1932. Complacency was natural, for the stock-market crash and general industrial and financial panic in late 1929 was answered at Ridley by perhaps the most successful year in the history of the School. Attendance was at an all-time high in the winter of 1929-30. Besides, the rugby team were champions; the hockey team was superb; the cricketers were also Little Big Four champions in the spring of 1930 and the percentage of successful matriculation papers written by Ridley students rose from 76 per cent in 1929 to 83 per cent in 1930.

In the face of such inspiring things, how could a Ridleian be pessimistic?

The work of Ridley candidates at Honour matriculation actually created a new record for the School in 1930. The School was particularly proud of A. T. Olmsted and R. B. Dale-Harris on winning scholarships. Olmsted won the

Bishop Strachan Scholarship at Trinity College, a fitting culmination of five years at the head of his class at Ridley. In 1928 he had caused a mild sensation by passing, at the end of the year in Fifth Form, in fourteen Junior Matric papers; he was also quarter-back of the third football team. In 1929 he was a fearless quarter-back of the second team. In 1930 he had been House Prefect. Dale-Harris won the first Edward Blake Scholarship in Mathematics in 1930 and the Wellington Scholarship in Mathematics at Trinity College. In Honour Matriculation he took first-class honours in ten subjects. He was at Trinity with Olmsted in 1931.

It is remarkable but true that at the moment when pessimistic economists were crying havoc, and the banks and financial organizations were drastically restricting credit, Ridley was reaching for high academic standards and exuding more confidence and optimism than ever.

At the same time, a wholly admirable change in the attitude of the boys was noticeable. They were shocked and disturbed by all that was happening in the panicky, harried adult world, but except for boys with trouble at home their reaction was good, not bad. Their awareness of the anxiety of so many people over finances engendered a new seriousness. Disciplinary problems in the classrooms noticeably diminished; the boys of Ridley seemed to have a new keenness in their studies and were eager to get in a full day's work. The senior boys, especially, had a new appreciation of their opportunity to prove that they had observed and admired the general Canadian attitude in adversity, which was to tighten belts but also to tackle the new, hard conditions of life without panic and with a steady resolve.

Already there had been instances of organized communal aid for the unemployed in Ontario, which to the Ridley boys was a manifestation of community spirit which was very close to their own proud school spirit which was also without personal selfishness. In his new attention to affairs other than his own, the Ridley boy was contracting a new appreciation of Canada and Canadians. He would shortly be increasingly shocked by the want and unemployment the country was suffering and confused and upset by the rise of pacifism, but at the end of 1930 his own term – "all serene" – still accurately described the mood of the Ridley boy.

RIDLEY's two major public events held annually – the Sports and Prize days – were blessed with fine weather in both 1929 and 1930. The 1929 games were remarkable, not because of broken records or spectacular individual feats, but because no less than four boys finished in a tie for the Gooderham Challenge Cup, emblematic of the Senior Championship. Such an astonishing thing had never before occurred in the history of Ridley's games; because some heats and even complete races had been run off earlier in the week and

also because it was nearly dark before the programme was concluded, nothing could be done about arranging a tie-breaking test. This would have been exceedingly difficult to do in any event; the four-way tie was too tightly tangled. Harvey had won sprints; Gale the jumps; Fischer's points came from the middle-distances, and those of Subosits from a variety of events. There was nothing to do but supply four replicas of the Gooderham challenge cup.

A wit gently suggested to Mr. Griffith who was strongly in favour of the team sports, that this seemed to be converting the runs and jumps into team events. He was no doubt one of those Old Boys who were disciples of track-and-field and who argued that it was wrong to discourage the games in fear of creating schoolboy idols. Their favourite point was that both cricket and football inevitably created school heroes. The track-and-field sports were not actually discouraged by Mr. Griffith; there was just more attention paid to the team games because of their greater student participation.

The following year saw the senior events of Sports Day so dominated by the speed of Harry Griffiths that the unsatisfactory multiple finish in the count of points in 1929 was not possible: Griffiths had four victories and one second. The following are the times and distances recorded on hard ground in 1930:

<i>Senior Events</i>	<i>Time or Distance</i>	<i>Winner</i>
100 yards	.11	Harrington
220 yards	23.4	Griffiths
440 yards	57.1	Griffiths
880 yards	2.10 (new record)	Griffiths
1 mile	5.10 (tied record)	Griffiths
High jump	5.6½ (new record)	Harrington
Broad jump	19.3½	Lauber
120-yd. hurdles	(not recorded)	Pauline

Conway, winner of the Junior Cup in 1929, won Intermediate honours in 1930, and Moyer, the Lower School champion in 1929, also moved up to capture the Junior title this year.

TRACK-AND-FIELD CHAMPIONS

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Lower School</i>
1929	Tie { Harvey, J. C. Fischer, E. S. Subosits, V. A. Gale, R. H.	W. D. Neeland	C. A. Conway	W. H. Moyer
1930	H. E. Griffiths	C. A. Conway	W. H. Moyer	V. Francis

The sun shone brilliantly as usual for the Prize Days of both years, with motor cars loaded with relatives and friends of the boys beginning to arrive at

10 a.m. while the boys heard their academic fate in the Assembly Hall. Despite the policy of shortened formalities at the prize-giving ceremony, the traditional heat of Ridley's Prize Days was still with them, with the packed gymnasium an oven before things were concluded after two hours or more. The haste of both parents and boys to debouch from the gym door and reach the tea-tables in the shade of the trees was quite understandable.

In 1929 Premier Howard Ferguson of Ontario and Mrs. Ferguson were the guests of honour at lunch and then at the presentation ceremony, which was now started at 3.00 p.m. Despite concise school reports by Principals Griffith and Williams, and an apt, brief speech by the Hon. Richard Harcourt, it was after 5.00 p.m. before Subosits was called to the platform to receive the most honoured prize in Ridley's gift – the Mason Gold Medal. In full appreciation of its importance the coveted award was now always the last to be bestowed on Prize Day.

	MASON GOLD MEDAL FOR TRUE MANLINESS (on the vote of the boys)	HEAD BOY (Governor-General's Gold Medal)	HEAD BOY of the Lower School (Mason Gold Medal)
1929	V. A. Subosits	H. R. Holland	A. H. Griffith
1930	H. E. Griffiths	A. T. Olmsted	F. D. Badgerow

In 1930 the speaker of the day, the Reverend Provost Cosgrave of Trinity College heard Mr. Griffith proclaim in his annual report on the School that this had been the most successful year in Ridley's history – much progress, good health, good discipline, a creditable standing at the matriculation examinations and two Little Big Four athletic championships. Perhaps in the face of this Provost Cosgrave was induced not to mention the chaotic economic conditions of the outside world. No one did. Yet it was noted that an especially large number of Ridley's graduates were going on to university, with few directly entering business life. Not many chose finance and commerce as their course in higher education. Economic conditions were now so bleak that a future in business and trade was avoided. This trend was national; opportunities for young men in Canadian industry and commerce were so lacking that when possible they turned to a liberal arts course. Life at Ridley or in a university seemed safer than facing the stress of the outside world.

*The timorous eaglet . . .
He sees again those rocks so far below;
He sees the cold and hunger of the snow;
Ah! Loath is he to leave his high plateau.*

– P. B. Yates in *Acta*

IN MEMORIAM

IN APRIL, 1929, the staff of *Acta Ridleiana* was deep in discussion and work for an enlarged and more elaborate school journal, with their artist, Dick (R. S.) Malone busy on its new design, when their former editor died after a brief illness. Walter Thomas Comber, B.A., of the Lower School, had helped produce many fine issues. Educated at King's School, Bury St. Edmunds, and Wadham College, Oxford, Mr. Comber had taught at Hillcroft and then Ashbury College before coming to Ridley in 1919. He had been the first housemaster of Gooderham House, and had then joined the Lower School's staff in 1927 as senior assistant to Principal Williams. He was considered one of Ontario's finest teachers of history. The Lower School had loved him and missed him greatly.

Then, while Ridley's boys were scattered on their summer holidays, they were shocked to learn of the death in August of the Little Master of Gooderham House, David Grier, aged two years and eleven months. Let no one say that schoolboys do not grieve deeply. The little son of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. M. Grier had captured the affection of the boys of both the Dean's House and Gooderham House. Anonymously, this tender verse, dedicated to David, appeared in *Acta*:

*A lovely thing once seen lives on in the eyes,
Though it come never more to lighten them.
And all our doings strangely beautifies,
As no indwelling light can brighten them.
So may they know when treasure made us glad
Our memories walk with theirs, for we have seen,
Ere beauty claimed her lending that they had,
How blest in trust of beauty they have been.
So when we leave the little room we filled,
Too soon to play no more as we were fair,
May some joy caught from ours, when ours is stilled,
Like borrowed radiance in men's eyes remain;
And memories of us in hearts we moved
Stand silent comrades for our best beloved.*

One of the most distressing elements of space limitation is the historian's inability to record the passing of all Old Ridleians. Each Prize Day saw the ranks of the Old Boys increased by the graduates, but each issue of the School's journal also recorded the toll among them by illness, accident and time. In the Old Boys' section, now headed *Acta Maiorum*, a noted Old Boy was mourned in the Christmas issue, 1929:

Acta regrets to announce the sudden death from pneumonia of Robert Dyson Hague ('99-'04), son of the Reverend Canon Hague, one of the founders of Ridley. Bob Hague had a very distinguished career at the school and afterwards at Toronto University. He was captain of the rugby, hockey and cricket teams and winner of the Herbert Mason Medal for the finest all-round boy in School. He was later a member of Varsity football teams.

There were many others, too; in 1930 Major J. O. Leach, M.C., was mourned. The intrepid airman who had traded trench warfare with the Middlesex Regiment to fly with the Royal Air Force and had lost a leg in combat against the Richthofen circus had continued to fly in action in 1918, and also after the war, with the Ontario Provincial Air Service. He was killed when a stalled engine caused him to crash into Thunder Bay.

Then the death occurred of Colonel Reuben Wells Leonard on December 17, 1930. When he died Ridley lost one of her great props and benefactors: so did Canadian education generally. But his great work for education would carry on through the Leonard Foundation.

Col. Leonard was a governor of Ridley, not an Old Boy; he had graduated from the R.M.C. in 1883 (with its first group of graduates), six years before Ridley was founded. He then went on to become an engineer. His affinity with Ridley and the School's great admiration for him were based on his personification of Ridley's values and principles. Though he was an extremely wealthy man he lived quietly, to an admirable moral code, motivated by an earnest desire to have his money be of the greatest possible service to his country and its people.

His interests included historic contributions to mining, railroading, electric power and the Canadian economy generally. In the course of his career he was the master-mind of some striking hydro projects; in 1892 he was engineer in charge of the first hydro-electric development at Niagara Falls; he constructed the hydro plant at De Cew Falls near St. Catharines, and similar plants in the Canadian West. His great wealth was derived originally from the historic discovery of extremely rich deposits of silver near Cobalt in 1905. He was president of the Coniagas Mine Company, which held the 40-acre producer of 35,000,000 ounces of silver which paid \$11,000,000 in dividends and which created at least two new Canadian millionaires. Colonel Leonard was later president of Electric Steel and Engineering Ltd. and, to reflect his eminence as an engineer, he was vice-president of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and of the Canadian Mining Institute, a member of the American Institute of Mining Engineers and a member of the Council of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy of London, England.

His wealth turned Colonel Leonard to a lifetime of service, including a great contribution to the nation in wartime ship-building, followed by an

almost endless distribution of his money to social movements. His church, his native city of Brantford and adopted city of St. Catharines, hospitals, widows, orphans, all thought of him as a great and warm-hearted benefactor. An ardent British patriot with a great sense of history, he purchased London's Chatham House and presented it to Great Britain as a home for the Royal Institute of International Affairs, a movement which had caught his deep interest. Chatham House in St. James Square had been at different times the residence of the younger Pitt and of Gladstone, a fitting place to study international trends and influences.

His contribution to Canadian education was the most important of all his benefactions. Through his generosity no less than 150 Canadian university students were receiving aid from the Leonard Foundation in the year of his death.

Ridley's Lower School was, of course, a monument to Col. Leonard. In addition, he bequeathed such a fortune to Ridley that her scholarship and bursary programme was transformed.

Principal H. G. Williams wrote this of him: "His personal pleasures were simple and wholesome, and it required but little money to enjoy them. His money . . . in the highest sense of the word was a trust, and he its administrator. . . . It can be truly said of him that he had learned and practised the true use of money, and in so doing he won his own happiness." (Please see Mr. Williams' tribute in full in Appendix A-a.)

The reports to *Acta* on the deaths of Old Boys reveal that the Association was still playing a valuable role in helping Old Ridleians to keep in touch with the School and with each other, but a supplementary bulletin was already needed similar to today's *Tiger*. The school journal did its best, but space for news of the Old Boys had to be restricted. It is interesting to read thirty years later where some of the Old Boys were located in these engrossing years, as *Acta* reported:

Acta Maiorum (1928): "Sandy Somerville ('13-'21) continues to collect golf crowns as a side-line to the insurance business. . . . Old Boys of 30 years ago will be pleased to hear of the promotion of Counter Norsworthy to the post of Assistant General Manager in Ontario, Bank of Montreal.

"Various football teams about the country have had the services of Old Ridleians this season: Murray Snyder, George Gooderham, Bill Bell and Earl Davey for the University of Toronto Senior Intercollegiate; Jimmy Wright for Queen's Seniors; Sam Granger for McGill Seniors; Alex Stringer, Bill Adams and Stewart Kernohan for Varsity O.R.F.U.; Roy Dewitt for Balmy Beach . . . and many more.

"Our College entrants this year are: Kernohan, O'Flynn, Lownsborough, Schuch, first-year Arts, Toronto; Bill Bell, second-year arts, Toronto; Ted Innes, McGill; Thompson, Western U.; McAvity and Prince, R.M.C.; Siebs, Cornell."

Acta Maiorum (1929): "Among Old Ridleians at R.M.C. this year, Donald Turnbull ('23-'24) graduates; Ian Johnston ('22-'25) passed his third year; and Don Gow, Bob Rogers and Jim McAvity passed their second year, Gow ranking fifth and Rogers second.

"In medicine at Toronto, F. R. Wilkinson ('22-'24) passed in his fourth year, Charles Hess ('21-'26) in his third year, and W. I. B. Stringer ('18-'22, '25-'26) in his second year.

"Edward Berwick ('25-'28) has received a commission in the Governor-General's Body Guard, one of the best militia cavalry regiments in Canada, and Philip Guiton ('21) has been commissioned in the artillery at Regina."

Acta Maiorum (1930): "A recent visitor after a long absence was J. M. Glen ('00-'06) now located in Rio de Janeiro with an engineering firm. . . . S. K. Fowler ('01-'07) is in Lansing, Mich., operating the S.K.F. air service. . . . The Malone brothers are both in journalistic work, A. V. ('22-'27) with the *Mail & Empire* and Dick ('26-'29) with the *Regina Leader*. . . . Alex Stringer ('18-'24) has been elected President of the University of Toronto Lit. . . . Old Ridleians with the Toronto Cricket Club when they won the John Ross Robertson Trophy, were W. E. N. Bell, Clarke Bell, Craufurd Martin and V. Subosits."

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ENGLAND

AT A REUNION in 1929 of a group of Old Boys – not of Ridley, but of Lake Lodge – Hamilton Cassels, K.C. ('07-'13) gave a speech on the role of the public schools in the English educational system. His references to the stern life led by the boys of some public schools of later high repute, such as Eton, Harrow, Rugby and Winchester, intrigued both Old Boys and students of all the Canadian independent schools. They were fascinated with the brutality of some masters, told in Mr. Cassels' flashbacks to appalling conditions before Headmaster Thomas Arnold of Rugby led the reform.

In any work on a Canadian independent boys' boarding school references to the famous public schools of England not only have a place but are an essential. We thus seized upon Laddie Cassels' historical notes on them as a ready-made insert to fill a gap. They belong in Ridley's story and, besides, they intrigued this historian.

In comparison to sleeping on bundles of straw at Winchester, to being birched and flogged in wholesale batches at Eton and slowly being starved at Rugby, life in a modern Canadian boys' boarding school suddenly appeared sheer luxury. A boy in any of them, who had just encountered the sting of a master's strap or a headmaster's cane, was likely to be told by his unfeeling dormitory that he was lucky to live in this age of enlightenment. Here are some of the items of English public school history related by Laddie Cassels:

Winchester

"The first of these schools to be founded in England was *Winchester* which was established in 1382 by William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester. The Charter of foundation provided for the education of seventy scholars suffering from want of money and poverty, but apparently William of Wykeham was something of a Socialist because he added that with the poor scholars were to be educated 'a few others more of wealth and rank to the number of ten'.

"Life at *Winchester* in the early days must have been a hard one for the poor scholars for they had no beds and had to sleep on bundles of straw. They got only one meal a day. It is interesting to note that Bishop Trelawny (one of the seven bishops who were imprisoned in the Tower) was responsible for what was considered a great concession in that as a result of his intervention the boys were no longer required to get up in the morning until 6 o'clock.

"Another thing always associated with *Winchester* is *Dulce Domum* or *Sweet Home* which, I think, is still to be found in the University of Toronto Song Book. Tradition has it that a boy who had committed some offence against school discipline was not allowed to go home for the summer holidays. He bore up bravely for several weeks but finally the solitude became too much for him, so he carved the words *Dulce Domum* on a tree, took to his lonely room, and died of a broken heart. I understand that the boys still sing the song on the last six Saturdays of the long term.

Eton

"Many curious customs and stories are associated with *Eton*.

"During the great plague in 1662 forcible smoking was introduced; the boys were compelled to smoke pipes during classes as this was considered a protection from the plague.

"*Eton*, which has long been recognized as the school where children of the nobility and aristocracy have been educated was founded in 1440 by Henry VI. The statute of foundation provided that the purpose of the school was to educate twenty-five boys, the sons of indigent parents, and out of the endowment funds were to be supported an equal number of poor men. Needless to say, *Eton* has long since departed from the objects for which it was founded and now has over a thousand boys, many of them sons of the best-known families of England.

"In the early days of the last century *Eton* had a headmaster who, while he does not appear to have left a great reputation for learning, certainly broke all records for administering punishment with a birch rod. He would say to the boys, 'Blessed are the Pure in Heart. It's your duty to be pure in heart. If you are not pure in heart I'll flog you.'

"He used to birch the boys in batches of twenty, fifty and even as many as eighty. When birching a boy he would say, 'A disgrace to your friends' (swish, swish) 'Ruin to your parents' (swish, swish, swish) 'You'll come to the gallows at last' (with a finale of swishes).

St. Paul's

"At *St. Paul's School* under the statute of foundation 153 scholars were to be given a free education. Each one of these was given a small watch charm

in the form of a fish, the reason for the ornament and the number fixed at 153 being that, when Christ performed the miracle of filling Peter's net with fishes, the number of fish found in it was 153.

Dulwich

"The life of a school-master in those days must have been a happy one – at least by comparison with that of the boys. Early rising was the rule for the boys, but apparently not for the Masters. It is said that at the Dulwich School classes started at 6 a.m. but the Masters stayed warm in bed until nine and the poor little boys had to gather round the Master's bed and repeat their lessons to a drowsy gentleman in a nightcap.

Harrow

"*Harrow* was founded in 1571 by one Lyon, a yeoman of a neighbouring village who settled two thirds of his property for the carrying on of the school and the balance for the maintenance of the road between Harrow and London. I understand there are now about 600 boys at *Harrow*. In the *Harrow* charter of foundation it was provided that for recreations the boys should be allowed 'Driving a top, tossing a hand-ball, running, shooting and no other.'

Rugby

"Another great school is *Rugby* which was founded in 1567 through a bequest of one Lawrence Sheriffe, a local grocer. With *Rugby* are always associated the names of Thomas Arnold, its famous headmaster, *Tom Brown's School Days* – perhaps the greatest of all school stories – and, of course, the game from which our rugby football has developed. (*Postscript*: In 1823, a *Rugby* boy named William Webb Ellis, "with fine disregard for the rules of football, first took the ball in his arms and ran with it".)

"While schools such as these were originally founded with the object of educating poor children, we find that before many years had elapsed a substantial part of the funds was finding its way into the pockets of the Wardens and Fellows of the schools, with the poor boys sadly neglected both as to the common necessities of life which were supposed to be provided for them, and in the matter of education. By the beginning of the 19th century conditions had become unbelievable. It was stated in an official report in 1834 that the inmates of a workhouse or gaol were better fed and lodged than the scholars in one of the great public schools.

"It was not until Thomas Arnold was appointed headmaster of *Rugby* in 1828, that things took a turn for the better. It is only a little more than a hundred years since Arnold went to *Rugby*, but it is really in that time that all the best customs and traditions of English public school life have grown up."

It was said that after hearing Mr. Cassels' speech several Old Boys of Lake Lodge sternly reminded their sons that they were coddled and pampered, forgetting that in their days at school discipline was no more severe, the mattresses no harder, the hours no worse and that the food was just as plentiful as it was now. (Fathers are often like that.)

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS AGAIN – TWICE!

RIDLEY's footballers brought glory to their school again in 1929; once more – for the tenth time – Ridley was singing *We're Champions Again*. They sang it again for the eleventh time in 1930. (And for the third year in a row in 1931.) Ridley's football was remaining at its 1927 peak.

Alex Hayes was football captain for '29 and recipient of much praise for his generalship in the three inter-school games of that season, but even more for his spectacular running and valuable kicking. Alex was later to have a brilliant football career with Sarnia, with his kicking a feature of his play; reminiscing Old Boys will vow Alex Hayes was one of the greatest kickers Canadian football ever knew. But at Ridley it was his rousing broken-field running which electrified the side-lines. In the first game of the 1929 season, against Delta C. I. of Hamilton, Alex staged a run which kept the Old Boys talking all winter. The restrained rugby reporter wrote: "Delta were dangerous until Hayes brought off one of the most thrilling runs ever seen on the School field. Starting on his own 15-yard line, he moved and twisted his way right down the field to the Delta 15, an unstoppable charge that carried him over 80 yards, through tackles all the way." He almost personally defeated the Old Boys by his running that year with a 50-yard dash to open his display.

Yet his great later kicking ability was clearly in the making; his kicking added many points to every Ridley score in 1929, and his long punts often took the team out of danger. If his running was a thrill to watch, his kicking kept adding those valuable points.

Because an L.B.F. football championship could not be declared in 1928, this was the second Ridley triumph in a row (1927 and 1929). The win in 1929 was not a sweep; a dramatic battle against St. Andrew's had ended in a tie game. They finished deadlocked 10-10. ("With only three minutes left to be played . . . we were two points behind, the goal was far away, and a drizzling rain was beginning to blow in our faces. . . . We were lucky to crowd a safety touch into the fleeting last moments and to make a tie of the match." – *Ridley report*.) Because St. Andrew's had previously suffered one defeat, the tie-game was not also a tie-championship; the rugby crown for 1929 was Ridley's.

Ridley deserved a championship on the brand of football the School displayed that season: the first and second teams were both unbeaten; the third team did well. Here is the triumphant season's record of the School team:

Against Delta Kappa Epsilon	won 8-0
" Hamilton Delta C.I.	won 15-6
" Old Boys	won 31-0

Against	St. Andrew's College	tied 10-10
"	Trinity College School	won 11-1
"	Upper Canada College	won 19-5

Ridley's 1929 football championship team: A. M. Hayes, captain; L. A. Wilmot; E. P. Coy; Harris II; L. C. Bell; C. L. Counsell; P. D. Curry; J. D. Cockburn; D. F. Teague; J. H. Walter; R. W. Lauber; W. B. Burt; H. E. Griffiths; C. F. Carson ma; J. C. Denison; L. A. Dorfman; L. W. Skey; S. G. Fearman; D. W. Harris max; F. I. Nicholls and H. H. Peck.

Because this was Ridley's fortieth-birthday year, much Ridleian nostalgia was in evidence, especially regarding football. It was recalled that in Ridley's first football games against their three Little Big Four rivals, the orange and black had defeated T.C.S. by 7-5 and lost to Upper Canada 10-6 (in 1891) and had badly beaten the first team which St. Andrew's had fielded (1900) in Little Big Four competition. All of which inspired a lot of curiosity about the present standing in football championships. Ridley was at last in the lead of all schools, having finally overtaken St. Andrew's.

LITTLE BIG FOUR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

- 1900-1929 -

<i>School</i>	<i>Championships Won</i>
Ridley College	10 (1 tie)
St. Andrew's College	9 (1 tie)
Upper Canada College	6
Trinity College School	4

Note: No championship was declared in 1918 (influenza) and 1928 (polio).

In September, 1930 the footballers came back to school after a drought which had lasted since June, to find parched fields and hard, bone-shaking turf, but with the entire School infected with football fever as usual. The extent of football interest at Ridley in this era is illustrated by the following description of the days of practice:

"Far away in the corner of the west field, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Bett wrought the raw material of the Dean's House. North of them, Messrs. Sherrell and Eakins hammered at 'D' Squad, while at their shoulder Mr. Ashburner and Mr. White did the same for 'C'. At the edge of all this intent football activity, Messrs. Hamilton and Cockburn with 'B' Squad scrubs were in a good position to refine the crude product coming down through the 'A' Squad pipe-line. Finally, in 'A' Squad, the Principal (Mr. Griffith), the Business Manager (Mr. Brock) and the Editor (Mr. Grier), trod ceaselessly on the heels of the First and Second teams."

There was doubt about the School team of 1930. "You'll never do anything with them, they're too good-natured," Coach Griffith was warned. But before

that season was well under way with its 8 hard matches, and 6 wins, they proved that good nature and good football are compatible if there is a driving leader and a will to win. J. D. Cockburn was football captain in 1930 – “and there was never any doubt that season that the Ridley team had a captain and that that captain was Cockburn.” There was also sincere applause for the skill and fighting spirit of many others of that year’s “good-natured team”:

Lauber: “When the team needed a kicker, Lauber filled the bill.”

Nicholls: “His catching and rugged running was responsible for many long gains.”

Kennedy: “Hit the line harder than anyone else and made many big gains.”

Curry: “No one at the school can remember when he made a bad snap-back.”

Seagram: “He was the whole works. As quarter-back he got the plays away; when the ball was kicked he was an outside wing; when the enemy held the ball he was a half-back . . . his acceptance of hard-catching chances when moving at full speed into crowds of opposing tacklers was an example of how it should be done that might well be copied by any senior in the land.”

Ridley lost to T.C.S., 11-13, in the opening game of the year on Upper Canada’s grounds, and both teams then retained half-ownership of the football championship at the end of their inter-school schedules. Ridley won decisive victories over Upper Canada, 26-11, and St. Andrew’s, 21-0, and T.C.S. had also defeated two school teams, losing to one.

CONFUSION IN THE CROSS-COUNTRY

To the dismayed consternation of the organizer in these times of the annual Cross-Country Run, Capt. R. S. Cockburn, the 38th Annual Cross-Country Run was an hilarious confusion. The entire field took a wrong turn near the start, with uncounted “lost” or honestly frustrated runners ending up in Cunningham’s store, or the Y.M.C.A., or one of St. Catharines’ *cafés* to get warm. Careful chart-making, meticulous planning and detailed instructions to the markers were as complete as the meticulous details of a military operation order. More care was probably taken to see everything would go off smoothly in this 1930 race than for any Cross-Country since Ching Wah (Charlie) Lee won the first on November 5, 1891. Capt. Cockburn cautiously chose his markers from the boys parading to his office in the hope of dodging the ordeal – pleading fluid knees, sprained ankles, tender tendons, blistered toes – any excuse their aversion to running races in the wet and cold could inspire. Capt. Cockburn was an old hand; no obvious malingerer was given an

assignment as a marker. The rest were told to run, while the chosen were carefully rehearsed and instructed.

The officials were all experienced. Mr. Brock had the starting gun and had remembered his blank cartridges. (He had been known to forget them.) The markers were all in place. The field was lining up. Everything was ready. Nothing should go wrong.

Just what did go wrong was a mystery, perhaps because almost everything did. It was wonderfully confused and still is. ("The staff work was excellent, the execution terrible.")

As was usual, the Juniors started off first, followed after a short interval by the slightly older Intermediate pack. Both groups followed a course of about five miles. Then the Seniors would be sent away along a route of over six and probably nearly seven miles. The markers, well muffled against the cold November wind, were all in position in time to direct runners at the tricky places. A paper trail had been carefully laid to the water-jump where such a splashing had occurred recently it was declared that a small tidal wave had gone down the creek.

The gun!

The whole line of Juniors plunged forward and vanished around the old Lower School, running at a terrific clip. That this pace was maintained by every boy all the way round is not likely, but how they ran is unknown; just what course they followed is also vague. The Intermediates' run was equally confused; despite Capt. Cockburn's carefully plotted maps and well-instructed markers they went off on a wrong course near the start. ("Most of them invented a course of their own, and after crashing through a large expanse of high reeds, emerged on the real course and then continued the race.")

The Seniors adopted a startling measure to resolve their difficulties; lost and in doubt from the start *they ran the course backwards!* An astonished Capt. Cockburn saw them taking the water-jump ten minutes instead of twenty minutes after they started and then go flying past the admiring but astounded Juniors and Intermediates – *who were heading the other way!*

When it was sorted out as well as it could be, Thomas I was declared Senior winner, running a good part of the course backwards in 45.50 minutes, which indicated only that he'd made a good run. Sellers ma won the Intermediate race and Robinson III led the Juniors.

At the Cross-Country dinner that night P. H. Doig, toastmaster, sparked an hilarious evening of speeches by poking gentle fun at Capt. Cockburn, the chart-maker. The inexplicable factor was that the 1929 races over the same course had gone off like clockwork, except for the number to come a cropper at the water-jump. The 1929 winners had been: Senior, Griffiths; Intermediate, Thomas II; Junior, Piper. A total of 120 out of 140 starters had finished.

The number of finishers in 1930 was, of course, in doubt because no one knew who had or had not run the full course.

In both years the Lower School's independent race went off in fine weather and without mishap. Robinson II won in 1929 and, in 1930, Brookfield whose running ability had been unsuspected surprised by a great race and an easy victory. To the delight of many readers, *Acta* surrendered after a long gap to an apparent ban against the lowly limerick by publishing Mr. Thomas' tribute to Brookfield at the Lower School's Cross-Country supper:

*It would bore you and take too long to
Tell how a youth from Toronto,
Brookfield by name,
A boy small but game,
Won the race that all of you longed to.*

Mr. Thomas, who liked a limerick's pithiness, added two more about Ridley people. Inclined to be a bit opinionated, Mr. Thomas was probably out to break the limerick ban. His two additions were:

*We all know a lady from Guelph,
Who, disdaining all lucre and wealth,
Every night and all day,
In her motherly way
Puts your comfort before thoughts of self.*

*You have, too, a sprightly young nurse,
To whom I'll address a short verse.
If you think you are ill
She will give you a pill
To save you from anything worse.*

Vic Francis, Tony Cassels, Bob Edgar, John Hill and Charlie Trench who had finished behind Brookfield in that order, won the big cakes and also points for their tribes.

THE long-planned new face for *Acta Ridleiana* was ready for the Christmas issue – Ridley's 40th Anniversary Number. It was more than a new face; it was a complete transformation. The page dimensions were increased to 8 in. x 10½ in.; a new selection of type was made; coated paper of good quality was used; wide margins, a reduced amount of type on a page, with lots of white around new-style headings, meant the sacrifice of material for appearance, but it achieved the look of what publishers were calling "a class

magazine". It made a most impressive Anniversary issue, even if not quite in that category.

Nostalgic articles recalled Ridley of thirty and forty years before, and tributes were paid to the first principal, the Reverend J. O. Miller, M.A., D.C.L., now *Principal Emeritus*; to the Principal of the Upper School, H. C. Griffith, M.A., to the Principal of the Lower School, H. G. Williams, B.A., and to George H. Gooderham, President of the Board. In addition to the usual reports from the houses and on the recent triumphant rugby season, an article reported the visit to Ridley in October by His Excellency Lord Willingdon, Governor-General of Canada, and Lady Willingdon. The history of the school magazine from 1891 to 1929 was sketched. A nostalgic article, *The Beginnings*, by Dr. Miller opened the notable issue, and *Acta's* tribute to him concluded:

"As *Principal Emeritus*, member of the Board of Governors and grandparent of a boy in the Lower School (Tony Cassels, son of Laddie Cassels) Dr. Miller retains a connection with the School he created. Its recent developments and continued prosperity must be a source of great satisfaction to him. His retirement took place in 1921, but on the foundations he so well and truly laid an even greater Ridley is being built, and yet if, in a hundred years, a curious antiquarian should ask where is the monument of one John Ormsby Miller, his guide would take him to Ridley College and say to him, '*Circumspice*'."

Three former editors of *Acta Ridleiana* took part in the production of the distinctive anniversary issue, and there was full justification for its claim that the bound volumes of thirty-eight years of publication represented an outstanding achievement in school journalism. When *Acta Ridleiana* was founded in February, 1891, there were few in its field; now the exchange list of other school journals totalled a thousand or more: "Some are good, others are deadlier than the *Deadly Amaneta* (sic); some are literary, others not; some are chronicles of the life of the school, others are but faint echoes of current American humour; some are austere and un-illustrated, others are gay and bright with pictures, some are merely grotesque." The editors admitted their own lapses but felt satisfied that *Acta* was making a contribution of lasting value: "It is true that *Acta* has sown some of the wild oats of school journalism; it has sometimes striven unsuccessfully after novelty under the misapprehension that what is new is necessarily good, it has sometimes been merely respectable and dull, it has occasionally catered to the small-boy sense of humour . . . but these lapses have been so infrequent they are almost negligible."

Self-praise is always suspect, but much of this self-satisfaction was justified. The new, successful appearance of the journal reflected the words of the lead editorial which said that both Ridley and *Acta Ridleiana* were *Forty*

Years On, as a favourite school song said. There was certainly little about the new *Acta* to recall its production problems in a day of almost primitive publishing facilities when *Acta* was produced in the old Print Shop on Ontario Street, with the type set by hand. In some emergencies *Acta's* staff had themselves done the typesetting, the page make-up, the proof-reading, printing, sewing, cutting, binding and mailing.

Like her journal, Ridley had herself become physically unrecognizable through wonderful new buildings since those distant and often difficult days, and her student-roll had more than doubled. This latter change meant it was now impossible for the historian to hope to name a fair proportion of the boys of each period in his narrative. Scores of boys have a just claim for personal identification in their school's story, but only a sprinkling of names can appear.

Being good Ridleians we know they will be content with the references they find to those phases of Ridley's life and times in which they played a part.

Pacifism and the Ridley Boy

“The cry of blind pacifism – peace at any price, even at the expense of national honour – seemed to include an attack on many sacred things in which the boys of Ridley had been bred to believe implicitly.”

LONG before the depression-stricken nations could make the painful necessary adjustments in self-denial and drastically reduced expenditures to stave off starvation and complete economic disaster, it could be seen in Canada and the United States that the young radical liberals were off on a new tangent: pacifism.

This time they were out to remake the whole world to an idealistic theory, born only partly and incidentally as a belated revulsion to war. It was more directly inspired by a combination of the League of Nations’ dimming dream of a world government and the Communist revolution in Russia, coupled with their unabated phobia for political unorthodoxy which had been set afire again by the economic collapse. Their bitter criticism of the society in which they lived, with its wars and want, rose to a falsetto. The swollen group of radical liberals which were found in most of the universities now had a growing audience and one which listened; pacifism had a purifying effect on even the most extreme brand of socialism and at once won a hearing.

The young intellectual extremists were ripe by 1930 for the new crusade because they were angry and confused; their rebellion against the conventions had left them lost, frustrated and mutinous. Their reaction to a sense of futility was an unrelenting contempt for politics and politicians, which of course was concentrated on the political hierarchy ruling the democracies. They ignored the forces which had undermined the economy of the modern world and blamed the collapse on their favourite arch-enemy, that “unholy international alliance of money power and political power”.

And didn’t pacifism, with its demand for world disarmament, strike directly at this root-evil?

Why, they could refashion the great nations. By pacifism, they might even

alter the whole discredited social and government concept and create a new world, one without guns.

Besides, wasn't pacifism pure socialism-- a cry in behalf of humanity? It was emotional, but even a young radical, who was not supposed to reason with emotion, could believe in it with all the intensity of fanatical youth, even self-righteously.

It was thus that the historic pacifist movement of the 1930s began. A new crusade by the young radical liberals sparked it as they abandoned their clamour for Freedom Uninhibited. Shortly it would have the force of millions of dollars of propaganda funds behind it.

A wealth of recorded observation by the social scientists and their students confirms that even by 1929 the young radical intellectuals had relinquished their most extreme obsessions of the Roaring Twenties and seemed relieved to escape from "the lonely terrors of excessive freedom". They had not yet learned to think things out rationally as good independent radicals should, so they were still striking out blindly; even their concept of extreme socialism was muddled. In 1929 they still only vaguely realized they had been on a sort of high adventure in social change toward modernity and had already established a new permanent sophistication, one of the few things they gained. It was far too soon for them to realize that in the end they would only experience boredom and exasperation of spirit for the empty materialism of their outlook. Some of them never understood their mental ailment and remained mere petulant and irascible rebels, trapped in frustration.

Their undirected campaign for world disarmament accelerated at first almost by itself, making a lot of sense in a world in which there was no money for guns and little enough for bread. What citizen of a democracy does not dream of universal peace? Wasn't it the politicians who threw the world into a state of economic despair? Wasn't their process, called power-diplomacy, the tool of the munitions trusts and the war-mongers? Wasn't this the great crime against humanity? The cry for peace and disarmament mounted and mounted. If the young radical liberals had realized they were already a pressure-group the early momentum of pacifism would have been even more powerful.

As it was, the new movement was so strong and was soon so widespread that it eventually made many a Ridley senior thoughtful. No other trend in social thinking in the outside world ever had much more than a passing effect on the minds of Ridley's boys, but this was not so now. Old Boys who were at Ridley during the Thirties recall that pacifism was constantly under discussion. This was not surprising for the quickly-spread arguments for absolute pacifism were heard when they were already mentally disturbed and grappling with problems beyond their ability to assess, though they tried earnestly.

The cry of blind pacifism – peace at any price, even at the expense of national honour – seemed to include an attack on many sacred things in which the boys of Ridley had been bred to believe implicitly. It was a struggle for the seniors and some of the youngsters to decide what to believe. The boys of Ridley were soon hearing that even their kind of clean, unselfish patriotism was a dangerous, sentimental stupidity, with nationalism denounced as an insidious threat to world peace.

The editors of *Acta Ridleiana* noted their deep seriousness and absorption in the confusing trends of the social scene and recorded:

“*Acta* feels that it is readily apparent that a change in the attitude of the average boy at Ridley towards questions of the day, and towards the consideration of abstract ideas, is to be noticed.

“With surprising frequency we find boys showing a definite interest in current events . . . in the dormitories, at the table, at any time when master and boy may be indulging in casual conversation. Arguments will arise as to the question of war and debt payments, of Communism, of Mussolini and Hitler and their activities, mingled, it is true, with generous doses of discussion as to the relative merits of the Maple Leafs and the Red Wings in the N.H.L. . . .

“Perhaps this is a manifestation of the development of the modern youth, but . . . it is certainly to be encouraged at all places and at all times.”

As the pacifist propaganda spread, the strength of its influence began showing up everywhere. Even by the end of 1929 and the beginning of 1930 it had become unfashionable in many parts of Canada to be outspoken about love of country or pride of race and, soon, friend would berate friend if he dared to wave a flag or beat a drum. This was especially so on a university campus. The boys of Ridley would not have been nearly so disturbed if most of the slogans and preachings of pacifism had not emanated from the universities where the thoughtful student and the controversy-loving pseudo-intellectual alike, all with a smattering of basic economics, were quoting Marxian philosophy and demanding Utopia comprised of a world of brothers with a universal economic pattern and with all military forces and weapons scrapped. In the first years of the Depression, with the existing government process under attack – and blame – the universities seemed to be busily breeding and pouring out radical iconoclasts in dismaying numbers. They were noisy, so their proportion is uncertain, but they numbered enough or were noisy enough to cause the educational philosophies and administration policies of many universities to come under severe questioning. Statements which would have been labelled treason a short time before were not whispered, but shouted. It was fortunate that this was before the day of McCarthyism, or many a leftist professor would have had a rough time.

The boys of Ridley did not know, and neither did the young radical liberals know how or when it happened, but the campaign for pacifism and world disarmament was suddenly ballooned and became directed and organized. The sincere pacifists, the vote-hunting socialist politicians, and the young radical intellectuals who were all advocating universal peace together, were too enthralled with their crusade to stop to think, but they suddenly found themselves side-lined, relegated to the role of mere vocal allies in the most gigantic (and successful) propaganda campaign the modern world had yet known. To capture men's minds it swept through the democracies with amazing force, while a former German corporal watched, schemed and laughed. The campaign for world disarmament had been taken over by a group of American world-peace organizations which had millions of dollars for organized propaganda. The leader was World Peaceways Inc. Henry Ford was just one millionaire backer.

The result in effect on public attitude could be easily seen by any thinking Canadian, but too few were thinking clearly. In 1930 the scores of war-story magazines which had known great popularity during the Roaring Twenties suddenly vanished from the news-stands, as if a magic wand had whisked them out of sight. (In Toronto news-dealers who failed to get rid of their stock were threatened with dire reprisals by militant pacifists.) In Hollywood costly war-films were shelved if they even hinted at glorification of war or of a war hero; pacifist public opinion was so strong, no theatre would now dare to show them. This followed the propaganda master-stroke which saw French, Spanish, American, Canadian and all other Commonwealth newspapers reproducing page after page of war-horror photographs, supplied free in mat form by the peace-propaganda agencies. With few exceptions the newspapers of all the democracies joined the campaign of pacifism, some of them unwittingly. No Canadian newspaper had ever before produced so many illustrations, a costly item of newspaper production. They appeared day after day, full pages of them. No Canadian newspaper has since produced so many photographs on a single subject. The reaction of the ghastly scenes on readers' minds was effective; people were sickened and appalled. Revulsion to war was widespread; the war-horror photographs easily proved themselves to be one of the most powerful propaganda instruments yet used by modern communications.

The psychological victory of the pacifist campaign was soon seen; before long there were disarmament proposals before all democratic governments. Public opinion forced them. Then came the Locarno Pact. The final scenes were the tragic appeasement of Munich, followed by the invasion of Poland with the democracies unprepared. (*Postscript:* In both 1938 and 1939 conscientious Canadian editors must have looked back to see how they had freely loaned the influence of their newspapers to well-meaning, planned

The Boys' Chapel Choir, 1931

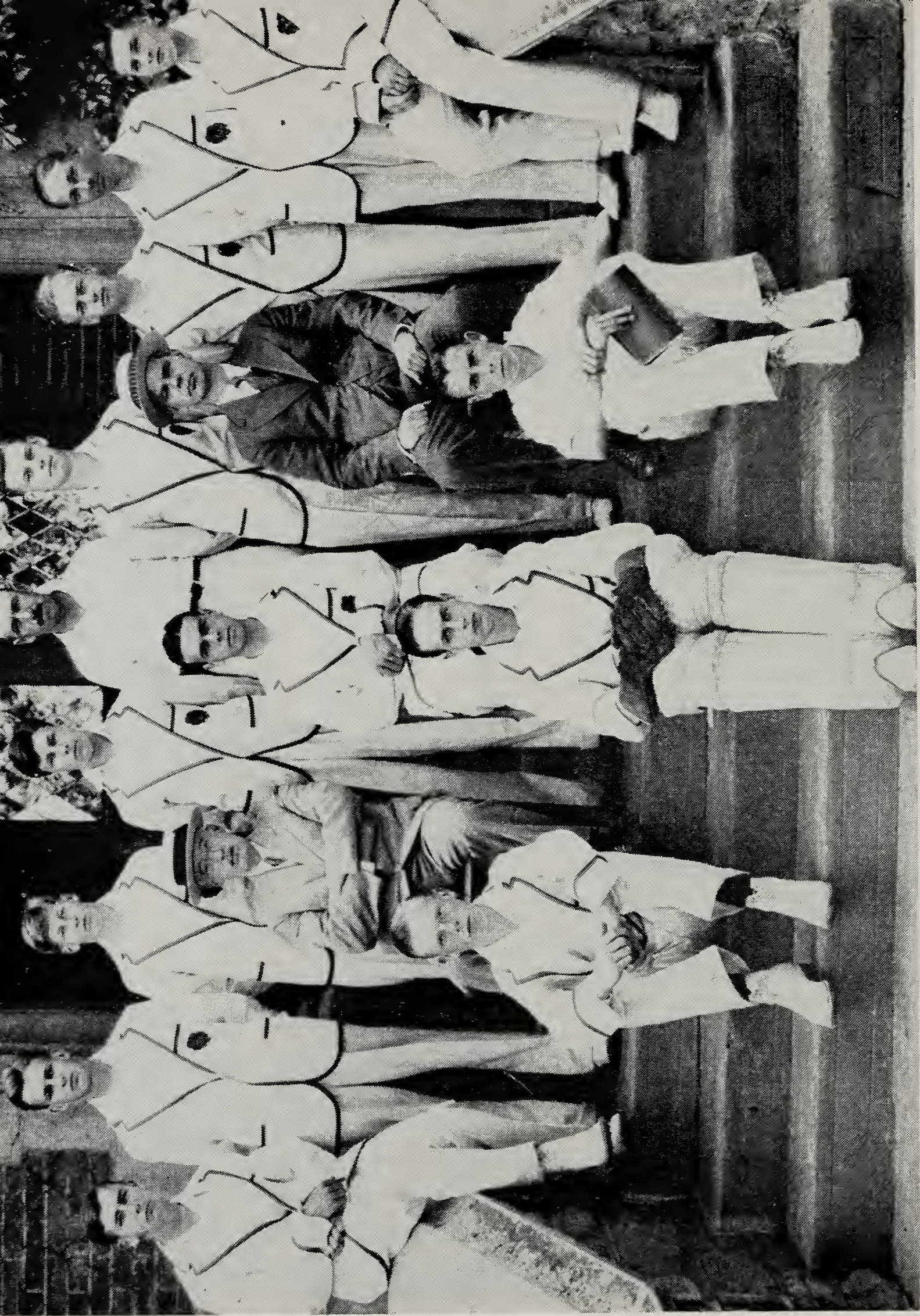


1931

A Dual

Championship

Year



LITTLE BIG FOUR CHAMPIONS, 1931

Front: R. S. Hart; D. R. Owen and R. W. Mitchell (scorer). *Centre:* Mr. H. C. Griffith; Philip Seagram, captain; Mr. E. G. Powell. *Rear Oval:* D. A. Harper; F. M. O'Flynn; F. H. Buck; D. L. Clarke; the Pro (Tom Coburn); G. C. Powell; J. E. Kennedy; A. L. McKinstry and Ralph Ripley. *Note:* Phil Seagram scored his second and third centuries: 100 not out against Hamilton

District and 131 against Upper Canada.

propaganda which used realism but which had lost sight of reality. The pacifism engendered had left the democracies almost helpless in the face of the new war lord's challenge. Some editors never wished to be reminded of the time they had reproduced photographs more lavishly than ever before or since.)

The boys of Ridley saw those grisly photographs: they were shocked by the mounds of dead and knew the normal revulsion to war of all decent peoples. When the Locarno Pact – the wonderful child of the pacifists – was at last ready for signatures, the staff and boys of Ridley probably knew something of the deep thankfulness which imbued all men of goodwill everywhere in the painfully brief interval before its hope was extinguished. They would certainly place in Locarno the same hope for lasting world peace which all truly peace-loving peoples placed in this unique document and then refused to relinquish its hope when Hitler made it a scrap of paper by repudiating it.

At Munich, the weakened will of the democracies to fight revealed the damage done and the terrible risk taken by the well-meaning peace propagandists who suddenly found they had been blind men leading the blind. *Postscript:* This historian knew wry, useless satisfaction in 1939 that in 1931 he had at least tried to protest, by publishing appalled warnings in military articles in both newspapers and magazines on the danger of the democracies' proposed wholesale disarmament. In that year he also exposed in a Toronto newspaper (*Telegram*) a series of peace-propaganda motion-pictures, masquerading as normal offerings but produced by propaganda funds. A few Canadian editors and writers were doing the same thing. It was all futile; no one listened.)

Swelling the demoralization of straight and balanced thinking throughout the 1930s was an historic swing to Communism by writers, artists and the more radical intellectuals of the left. They saw Communism as an honest ideology. Before it was corrupted and made dishonest by the Russian brand its appeal was powerful. The intellectuals of the Great Depression who wrote angrily on the hunger marches, the demoralized farmers, wandering nomads, park sleepers, hopeless mobs of unemployed, jobless youths and bankrupt men-about-town, caused the Great Depression to be frequently called the Red Decade. But this is misleading: they did not receive instructions from Moscow. They were writers on the far left, but they were social, not political Communists. They were bitter when they saw that Russian Communism was banishing truth from honest socialism. They felt betrayed, as hoodwinked children are resentful, but they have never expressed regret for the harm they did by the irresponsibility of the pacifism they bred. They boasted that they were realists, but they were actually idealists who were callously uncaring about the helpless victims they created for the first power-lusting

state or war lord to develop. Their type of pacifism first became the powerful ally of Nazism and then of Dictator-Communism. The penalty is still being paid for the heedless seeds they sowed in the 1930s, for their doctrine – right in its ideal, but wrong in the reality of its results – still weakens the solidarity of the democracies in the face of military threat from the Soviet dictatorship.

Ridley's boy-population contributed few converts to pacifism, even if the movement for world peace was casting such a benumbing spell that only a few clear-headed men issued warnings and few heeded those that spoke. When Winston Churchill said that Hitler's jackbooted storm-troopers, incessantly marching at night to torch-light, were arousing belligerency and defiance in a warlike people, he was derided as a war-monger. The boys of Ridley might well have heard, for the great proportion of them were thinking straightly despite anxieties that were really too much for boys. Many of them had harassed families at home and some had the appalling secret suspicion that fees to keep them at Ridley were unpaid. The number of bad debts on Ridley's books mounted alarmingly through 1930 to 1932; this was a confidential matter between the School and the parents but some boys no doubt knew. It is little wonder that many boys of Ridley turned serious and became interested in profound things.

Their masters were surprised to note a demand on the libraries for such books as Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, Durant's *Story of Philosophy*, for the lives of *Napoleon* and *Disraeli* and for works on great social movements and, not the least, on the development and course of democracy, starting with the Greek philosophers. The subjects of the debates in Ridley's latest "House of Commons" and speaking contests all reveal that the Ridley boy was disturbed and trying to fathom the social confusion. Mr. Harry Hussey was invited to speak on the League of Nations to the boys in the Hall – a subject one would expect would only bore boys – and it is significant that they kept him answering intelligent questions for an hour and forty minutes after his prepared talk concluded. The consensus of feeling Mr. Hussey left with them was that the League had teeth to control aggressors, but they were proving false teeth. In their own House of Commons earlier the principal motion on the agenda had been: "In the opinion of the House the League of Nations is a failure."

All their thinking seemed to be on a new, broad and more serious level. The House voted against a motion asking for stricter censorship of Canadian books and motion pictures. The House also turned thumbs down on the proposal that traditions were harmful and should be abolished – their direct answer to the scorn of racial or national traditions by the young radical intellectuals who lumped respect for tradition with those other stupidities: loyalty to country and the unselfish sentiment of a patriot.

Still other debate-subjects disclose the serious trend of young Ridleian

minds: *Resolved that the Sword Is Mightier Than the Pen* (affirmative Griffith and Warren; opposed Owen and Nesbitt); *Resolved that Civilization Would Be Best Served by the Introduction of the Communist Regime* (the ayes, Stocking and Orr, the nays, Kingsmill and Powell). *Fascisti* was the subject chosen by Wright I in the 1932 speaking contest, in which he was second to Smeaton who spoke on *Thomas Alva Edison*. W. A. Tanner mi offered an *Acta* article, *The Depression*; in the buoyancy of youth he predicted that this time of "starvation and debtor-nations" would give way to a golden age of happiness.

A fine article appeared in *Acta* in 1931 by J. G. Little, entitled *Communism and Free Speech*. Among Ridleians it served to counter some of the insidious effects of the propaganda for political pacifism and World Communism as the one way to world peace. It disclosed that if the ideal of Communism was right the Russian version was wrong. Surprisingly *Acta's* editors disclaimed responsibility for the views expressed by Fifth Former Little, one of their staff, and we can only surmise that this strange precaution was inspired by the feeling that international pacifism had such a hold on the public mind it was considered outrageous to criticize it. *Acta's* staff generally were probably pleased to publish the article, but at least one of their number was timid.

How the boys' discussions could change direction with great speed and ease was again illustrated by a sudden flurry of debates on religion. It was sparked by one of the short talks at Ridley's now long-famous Sunday evening chapel services. The Reverend A. C. French, Rector of St. John's Church, Youngstown, N.Y. had used the common Christian theme that only the Gospel of Jesus Christ could save the world from the evils of Communism. A boys' debate followed on the growth of atheism which switched to the pros and cons of union of all Christian denominations in order to combat atheism and Communism, and then went off on several tangents. One was on the number of unusual religious denominations claimed by Ridley boys; still another was wonderment about the percentage of Anglicans attending the School. The last point was the only one settled. The Bursar had recently compiled a table of religious denominations represented at Ridley in a single year. The diversity was surprising –

Anglican	52.5%	Christian Science	.6%
Espiscopalian	12.5%	Lutheran	.6%
United Church	17.5%	Roman Catholic	5.4%
Methodist	2.0%	Sundry	1.4%
Presbyterian	7.5%		

In the "sundry" group were one each of Baptist, Church of God, Christadelphian and Reformed Church. Obviously, the long-standing Ridley policy still prevailed which said that a new boy's religion did not matter so long as

he conformed with the Anglican religious observances and customs of the School.

From the same Bursar's survey the boys discovered other facts about their school: 197 boarders were Canadians; sixty-one were from Toronto; another 121 were from other parts of Ontario; fifteen were from other Canadian provinces. The balance gave Ridley her international flavour which had been pronounced for years. Boys were at Ridley whose homes were in the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Curaçao, England, France, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Trinidad and Venezuela.

Although it was not revealed, the impression could have been refuted which is held by some Canadians that the independent schools were only for the sons of the wealthy; about eighty boys – or 13.6 per cent – would not have been at Ridley without substantial assistance from scholarships and bursaries. In addition, the parents of many other boys were keeping their sons at Ridley only with great difficulty and much family sacrifice. During the depression years this was common, perhaps for even a majority of Ridley families.

Because Ridley's staff people were always carefully chosen the School escaped an infection that was not escaped elsewhere. A shocking number of well-meaning idealists but misguided "internationalists" who were at least Communist fellow-travellers were now on the teaching staffs of Canada's public and high schools, especially in the cities. They were dangerous, for if they did not dare openly to preach the Communist doctrine, their influence on the minds of young Canadians was still insidious. Most universities also had a clique of such thinkers under the guise of radical liberalism which now had a new respectability.

Most disturbing of all phases of the pacifist campaign to the boys of Ridley was the attack on the cadet movement. A general outcry arose against cadet corps in the schools of Canada. The cost at a time of grim economic need was one reason, but the noisiest assault was based on the problematic danger that boys could be infected by a spirit of militarism. So strong was the hold of the peace propaganda on the minds of Canadians that few voices were raised in ridicule or other protest.

Before the boys of Ridley knew how or just when it had happened the many cadet corps in the public and high schools of Canada had vanished.

One Old Ridleian dared to raise his voice but he had to turn to the *Canadian Defence Quarterly* to have his views published. *Acta Ridleiana* was grateful then to be able to reprint the article by Capt. Wilfrid Heighington ('11-'14). Among other things he said:

These alarmists about militarism are nothing but shadow-boxers. . . .
The danger of rampant militarism in Canada can be dismissed as absurd.
What's all the fuss about, anyway?

These insipid critics of the army idea all seem to forget that soldiers have no authority to vote a dollar towards war or to declare war when they get it.

From infancy we play at soldiers – yet we don't grow up into Ludendorffs. . . . You never see a small boy playing with leaden lawyers or mechanical insurance agents!

Capt. Heighington apparently saw that pacifism was so strong a feeling it was a waste of time to debate its wisdom or otherwise. He did not warn that it was foolhardy to disarm while an old enemy was arming. He contented himself with suggesting instead that if the appropriation for cadet training was criticized the grant could be cut off and applied to the militia.

The cadet funds were cut off – and the long-established Canadian cadet movement in the public and high schools was no more. Some had been excellent corps, with fine morale and enthusiastic instructors, but they vanished with the rest. The sole survivors were those few cadet corps which were already largely self-supported – like Ridley's – and which now were maintained by private funds and personal devotion. The pacifists wanted all school cadet corps declared illegal as "breeders of militarism" but had to be content with withdrawal of all government funds.

The militia units did not receive the saving. Instead, the Liberal Government's appropriation for the non-permanent militia was further reduced; considering that Canada had a prime minister who was a rigid isolationist and that the Conservatives in Opposition were so spineless they succumbed to pacifist public opinion and went on record (as a party under Manion) as opposed to conscription in the event of war, Canada was lucky that her militia organization was not wiped out like the cadets. It almost was: only sufficient defence funds were provided to maintain a far from adequate staff nucleus and the militia units began rapidly disintegrating. Throughout Canada the county militia units mostly became paper formations, with only those regiments able to remain in active operation which had loyal officers and friends to devote money, time and personal enthusiasm in defiance of prevailing government and public opinion.

Ignoring the growing international tension Canada's Liberal Government felt politically secure; in a time of depression, with a public infected by pacifism, there would be no political repercussion of consequence at the polls to its policy of making Canada defenceless. Nothing but obsolete weapons – and not a single tank for training – was in the entire country by 1932.

Ridley's staunch Cadet Corps would have been greatly inspired had they known how the combination of the Government's isolation policy and the persistent pacifist propaganda was failing, but it was long before the evidence was recognized for what it was. The militia units which could keep functioning in the cities, especially in Toronto, were surprised by many

unsolicited new recruits and by almost record strengths. Young Canadians in surprising numbers were turning to a regiment as something solid to which to cling; they saw a regiment as a symbol of protection in their insecure economic world. They flocked to the evening parades, ignoring the jeers of the pacifists on the street-corners. There were those who said these young men were really only after free sandwiches and coffee on parade nights but this was not even a cynic's half-truth. The noisy pacifist propagandists were having less effect than expected. The core of the country was proving sound after all.

As for Ridley, it was affected almost not at all. There were no known converts to blind pacifism.

THE RETORT BY THE CADET CORPS

RIDLEY's Cadet Corps knew one of its periods of greatest enthusiasm and efficiency in those years of depression and pacifism. It was like a silent retort. They were calling themselves the Rifle Corps nowadays and were so earnest they no longer waited for spring to train recruits; in the winter of 1929-30 Capt. Iggulden held his recruit class in the gym, aided by his officers: Cadet Major Bill Coy; Cadet Captains Alex Hayes and Harry Griffiths; and Cadet Lieutenants S. G. Fearman and J. H. Gibson. When CSM Pauline called the roll of the Corps on the campus for the first time that spring, they had a machine-gun section, equipped with a Lewis gun, a fine Signal Section and an Ambulance Corps of 29 under Cadet Captain Dorfman. The Band consisted of sixteen buglers and eight drummers. ("Now, if we only had those two tenor drums. . . .")

The Cadet Corps' vigour and erect smartness, and the obvious physical fitness of every boy, more than refuted the charge that school cadets served no good purpose but to make militarists. The alertness, and quick response and clarity of commands disclosed a valuable ability both to lead and to be led. The straight-backed and self-respecting carriage which the boys acquired on the cadet parade-square would mark their personalities and deportment all their lives. They seemed to know that their Corps existed in defiance of prevailing public opinion and to revel in the knowledge.

All Ridley was determined there must not be deterioration in either the Corps' appearance or equipment. Their coveted tenor drums were donated before Inspection Day, the gift of Lt.-Col. Little, with Chown and Seagram assigned to them. Two masters, Captains Cockburn and Grier, both ex-artillery officers of 1914-18, presented an imposing drum-major's baton. The Sixth Form took up a collection and presented two officers' bandoliers, two officers' swords and a crook for every bugle. They were fighting deterioration even in appearance and equipment.

Warm compliments to the Corps from the inspecting officers of the Military District had been unfailing for years, and in this period Major-General E. C. Ashton, C.M.G., V.D., Commandant of M.D. No. 2, admitted he found difficulty in retaining soldierly restraint in expressing his appreciation. Capt. Iggulden had offered two innovations in 1931 to follow the Corps' display of splendid precision in company, half-company and platoon drill and the usual demonstration by the Lewis gunners (who had also been training on a Vickers). The officers first gave a surprise demonstration of infantry sword exercises – point, parry, thrust – and then the gymnasts staged a fine display. Both were extra to the normal requests of an inspecting officer.

As usual, the great throng of onlookers appreciated most of all the Lower School cadets in their smart blazers and white ducks as they proved they could drill with precision, too.

There were 205 on parade that day, 167 in the smart uniform of the Corps. There was no Conchie Class in 1931; every boy was willingly on parade. The Cadet Corps was thus at its peak in morale at the very moment when pacifism was also reaching toward its peak. To prove that the entire school and nearly all Old Ridleians were earnestly supporting the cadets, the largest attendance in the history of Inspection Day at Ridley was on hand to watch the smartly uniformed boys go through their paces that day in 1931.

It was unmistakable evidence of how Ridley and most Ridleians stood.

In 1932 the editors of *Acta Ridleiana* proved they stood with the Cadet Corps, too; they gave record space to a report on the Corps – three and a half pages in a single issue. (They could have been a bit biased, of course; nearly all the sub-editors were in the bugle band.) Capt. Iggulden was complimented on being appointed an Honorary Associate of the Royal Life Saving Society, in tribute to the classes he trained at Ridley.

Ridley's attitude was permanent. *Acta* had tart remarks for the pacifists when reporting Inspection Day's great success in 1932:

The gymnastic work and the physical training displays were two of the important events of the day for they showed the "Agnes MacPhails" who attack and condemn every cent that the government votes for the Militia and the Cadets that the work is not all forming fours, wearing a uniform and shouldering a rifle. Physical development is fostered and encouraged. (*Note:* Miss Agnes MacPhail was a Socialist M.P.)

In the section competition before the inspection, Lt.-Col. H. M. Campbell, new C.O. of the Lincoln Regiment, acted as a judge, with Capt. J. M. Torrie, M.M. (ex-Scots Guards) and R.S.M. Clarke of the Lincolns. Col. Campbell gave them a speech about care in their appearance – haircuts, bootlacing, polished belts. ("One would think he looked hard at Harris when he said a haircut makes a cap stay put.") The winning platoon was No. 4, under Cadet Sergt. G. M. MacLachlan, capturing the traditional A. W. Taylor award.

Cadet Major A. H. Kingsmill was the Cadet Corps' C.O. in 1932. He was highly incensed with the mishaps which occurred during the annual Church Parade. Redman dropped his drumsticks so often – at least six times – that Cadet Major Kingsmill thought of a court-martial or even of execution at dawn, and then Mackenzie I's puttee came undone, flapping at every step, right in front of Mr. Taylor's house where a group of governors were assembled to watch the parade. (Two executions were in order.) Despite such red-faced things for a Cadet Major, the Corps was marching smartly as Mr. Griffith and Mr. Williams took their salute on the return from St. Thomas'. ("Every year some improvement is made in equipment; every year some improvement is aimed at in drill. This is a high ideal, an ideal of which the School may well be proud.")

THERE was no sign that Ridley's hockey opponents were infected with pacifism in their ice wars of these winters. With Phil Seagram the hockey captain in 1931 their competition was so rugged in the Niagara area and against Toronto fraternity teams that Ridley could only win 5 of their 11 games. Their best and highest-scoring game of the season was against Delta Upsilon when Seagram (4 goals), J. D. Cockburn (2 goals, 3 assists) and L. I. Armstrong (1 goal) on the forward line, and G. C. McKnight (2 goals) on defence, overwhelmed the fraternity team 9-5.

A special citation is in order for the Lower School's Under-age Team (12 and under) for their defeat in 1931 of Hillfield (3-2) and Lake Lodge (4-1). Skinner and Porter starred and Muir had the best shot on the team. Forbush, in goal, could barely skate, but he was still an effective acrobatic goal-keeper.

The next winter (1932) saw such mild weather that hockey was handicapped throughout Ontario except in rinks equipped for artificial ice. ("If the thermometer touched as cool a point as 32, the Pro saw we had ice, but most of the winter the rink was watered porridge.") D. R. G. Owen was hockey captain, and the School team only managed 5 games. The many Ridley hockey teams of previous years were reduced to a first team "and very experimental seconds".

As usual when hockey was in adversity, basketball boomed. Despite an increase in popularity of soccer in the late autumn forty-five aspirants for basketball colours reported during the soccer season, with Bridges, last year's captain, re-elected for 1931. Mr. Brock's drilling resulted in a wonderful record: 17 games played; 15 won; 875 points scored, with 519 against.

This record in an "iceless" winter was the best showing by a Ridley team in the School's basketball history to date. The quintet was: A. F. Byers, P. D. Curry, D. A. Lee, W. A. Thomas and J. E. Tyng.

In 1932 the basketball team was not as strong but it attained a standard that

must have been gratifying to Mr. Brock as his recompense for the patient grind of daily coaching year after year. They won 8 and lost seven games, with two defeats over St. Andrew's College, 49-47 and 46-35, the principal gratification of the season. The two Bells (Bill and Clarke), Earl Davey, Jack Prince and Sid Robinson came over to Ridley with the Alpha Delta Phi basketeters, but despite these formidable old Ridley players the School won handily, 62-19. Mr. Brock and his players were elated by a victory over Pickering College, a junior team rated with the finest in Ontario in that year.

The vagaries of the weather during that winter were so confusing that it often felt like cricket time in January and February. (They had practice cricket nets up beside the useless rink on January 12, 1932.) The Tribes of the Lower School sometimes arrived for morning prayers still panting from an early morning hockey game, played before the ice in the rink became too soft. They did not choose a school team, for there was no competition if they could have found ice; but Ramsay was named "phantom captain" and tribal hostilities contrived at rare intervals in the rink named the *Mohawks* the hockey winners over the *Algonquins*, *Iroquois* and *Hurons*. The Friday night motion pictures of the Lower School alone were normal in winter activities which this year included playing sideline-foremen during demolition of their old school building. (*Postscript*: J. H. Stork was paid \$1,150 for the demolition of both the old Lower School and Mr. Williams' old residence, latterly occupied by Mr. Comber and Mr. Ellis. Instead of tearing down the house Mr. Stork moved it to a site on Henrietta Street, just outside the school grounds. It was still there in 1959, a large stucco residence.)

The destruction of the old Lower School building removed a Ridley landmark of 1899 when it was first called the Junior School. It was built for \$14,000, as Canada's first boarding school for junior boys. Old Boys recalled that Henrietta Street was only a mud road at that time, with Hainer Street a little better because of a cinder sidepath. There was an extension added to the building within two years, and improvements in 1918, with room for sixty boarding students, three masters, matron, nurse and six maids. When the wreckers moved in the tangible background vanished for memories of cops-and-robbers, of marbles bouncing against the folding doors, of the engraved initials on the wooden lockers and the ring in the basement where honour was defended and insult avenged. There were so many things to remember, for life always seemed full in the old Lower School – creeping back from Joe's through the windows in No. II; the midnight raids between No. III and No. IV; painful interviews in the Master's room; cricket against the fence and Old Charlie trundling his lawnmower; Bill Konkle with his broom and Reddy in his boiler room muttering about evidence of surreptitious visits in the night by the dratted young pests.

The upper floors had been shut off in 1926, with some classrooms remaining

in use until 1930 when it was all abandoned. As it was now levelled, there was little left of the Ridley of the previous century but the old cricket house.

Just before the signal came that the cricketers could get on the grass for practice in the spring of '32, the annual Assault-at-Arms disclosed that the gymnasts had been again drilled to perfection by Capt. Iggulden during the winter. He personally led the sword-swinging display. A musical interlude was provided by the bugle band ("if it was not musical, it was at least rhythmic") and this year's pyramid ended in a "crescendo of balances" that saw Hillock, the top man, scraping his feet on the gym's girders. O'Flynn was the gym squad's captain in '32; the other colour men were Buck, Conway, Francis ma, Gooderham, F. D. Brunke, Creet, Francis mi, Hart I, Hillock, Mackenzie mi, MacLachlan ma, Mitchell mi, Neller, Robertson, Rogers, Shambleau, Smeaton, Tanner max, Tanner ma, Tanner mi and Wellington.

The four Tanner brothers of Toronto just now thought they were the first quartette of brothers to attend Ridley at the same time but they shortly heard about the four Stringers of Winnipeg, and then it was also recalled that there had been four Gordons (from Wallaceburg) at Ridley even earlier. Two brothers were common and three boys from the same family had not been rare for years. (*Postscript*: In the year 1908 there had been five Gordons at Ridley, four of them brothers. The five were: Donald Dean, Arthur St. Clair, Dudley Alexander, Glen Napier Victor, and W. L. Lockhart Gordon. The Gordons, like the Tanners of the Thirties, had been gymnasts, too.)

The gymnasts were perhaps the most intensely drilled of all Ridley's athletes and after long, long hours of practice the squad was on public view less than any of the boys in the team sports. The team-sport men had a weary practice grind, too, but they had the recompense of both a schedule of several games and acclaim from the crowd. But the gymnasts practised and practised, drilled and drilled, just to enter their own competition once and to stage one public display, or sometimes two, with a limited audience. (The track-and-field athletes were in the same category.) Yet the gymnasts' intense seriousness was striking. A stranger entering the gym on almost any winter afternoon, and many an evening, would see about forty boys practising independently on the apparatus scattered around the floor – boys on the horse, rings or high bar, the parallel bars, or making muscle with dumbbells. Suddenly Cap appears and calls them to order. Everything is cleared away but the parallel bars; the class stands to attention in two ranks; the real work begins.

Tricks and positions are practised over and over, relentlessly. Every piece of apparatus gets its turn.

The colours of Ridley's gymnastic team were always hard-earned.

THE last few years are often claimed to represent Ridley's greatest cricket era and the victory spell was still on them in 1931; there was still another Little Big Four Cricket championship to add to the mounting laurels of the School XI. Spectacular batting feats still electrified the School, and even luck favoured them as it so often does the skilled.

Phil Seagram was cricket captain and at the peak of his batting prowess. He scored a pair of centuries himself and, in a famous batting partnership (Ripley-Seagram), accounted for the big share of the 152 runs which created a new inter-school record. This feat did not mark the close of the greatest cricket period which Ridley was to know in her first seventy years, but the record-breaking and spectacular episodes in cricket had to stop somewhere and this record was a peak.

Seagram led a truly great School XI in 1931. The team was formed with no less than seven new colours out to prove their mettle. Early enthusiasm was then dampened when their first three games were drawn owing to the heavy rains of a cold, wet May. The XI looked excellent in what play they did get in, however; Ridley had scored no less than 108 runs for 3 wickets and 36 for 1 when two of the games were called. Then they lost a freak game (the first one finished) against Toronto Cricket Club who had both Billy Bell and Spark Bell playing for them. All the giants failed; Billy was stumped after one run; Spark was bowled by Clarke's first ball, and their own Phil Seagram was held to 2 runs. It was fantastic! The so-called lighter bats did all the scoring, with Toronto C.C. winning 98-70.

Then Ridley also lost to Kappa Alpha, 124-120, and had still another frustrating drawn game against the Old Boys, with the stumps lifted due to darkness. It was only then that they began playing great cricket, with Seagram lifting them. He scored an even 100 against Hamilton District, with Ridley winning 179-102. Seagram had made his century in slightly over an hour's batting.

It was Ridley's fifteenth century.

They were now ready for their three school rivals after a rather weird season to date. Frustrations continued; their first scheduled school game against St. Andrew's at Aurora was started but was rained out. Trinity College School was then defeated by the Ridley XI rather easily at Armour Heights when the XI from Port Hope collapsed in their second innings with only 27 runs before a handful of casual spectators. Ridley had only to score 4 in her second innings to win 108-104. (*Postscript*: An appeal was made to have future T.C.S. games played at Ridley or at T.C.S. or at one of the Toronto schools: "Under the present arrangement, the match is enjoyed by a handful of privileged masters, and a small and only mildly interested group of sisters, cousins and aunts.")

The Upper Canada match was all exhilaration, however, a splendid display

of cricket at its best. As the cricket reporter said: "A bright day, brilliant and forceful cricket, a declaration, a sporting challenge accepted and lost in a sporting way." The championship was at stake, to enhance interest in the match.

Ridley batted until four o'clock and then declared, with two and a half hours left. They had made the magnificent score of 261 for 6. If Upper Canada had then elected to divide the honours with a draw, they could have shared the championship with Ridley. But Upper Canada refused; they preferred to give Ridley a chance for an outright win after such a magnificent score. Their batters stepped forward smartly and went for the bowling as if nothing were at stake. For awhile they disclosed a disconcerting habit of staying in and making runs. Shortly before six o'clock they had three men still to come in, with 100 runs on the board. Would the three final U.C.C. batsmen try to play out time or would Ridley get their wickets? Had Ridley declared too late? Would it be a Ridley championship or a draw? At ten minutes past six it was all decided. It had been Buck against U.C.C. throughout their innings. He now bowled Dellis II and then Seagram bowled Magee. U.C.C.'s tenth man, Stewart, hit a fast one to Seagram at cover-point; a swift throw cut the run off and ended the match. U.C.C. had scored 134 in their full innings.

Ridley's historic innings of 261 for 6 had seen a brilliant batting partnership by Ralph Ripley and his captain, Seagram. They had the School's supporters in a fever of excitement after they went in with the score 56 for 2. Their score mounted and mounted, neared 200, then crept past the mark. It had reached 212 before Ripley went out, a wonderful display for a first-year man. He had made 71 and the Ripley-Seagram partnership had reached a total of 152 runs.

Seagram was still in; he had been reaching for the boundary again and again. He was not out until his score stood at the wonderful pinnacle of 131 when he was out l.b.w. – just three runs short of McAvity's record mark in an inter-school game.

That was Seagram's final "captain's innings". It was a glorious one. He was about to graduate, and in his last cricket season he scored Ridley's fifteenth and sixteenth centuries in June, after scoring her fourteenth in 1930. He finished captain of a championship team. He had the high batting average, 61.29, and the best bowling average, 8.92. He was a Ridley cricket immortal, like Alex Mackenzie, Casey Baldwin, Sandy Somerville, Billy and Clarke Bell.

In 1932 with G. C. Powell I the cricket captain, there were fewer dramatic cricket highlights, but Ridley again had a strong eleven, though seriously missing Seagram's mighty bat. But they had four players with fine averages: McKinstry, 36.37; Ripley, 24.78; Clarke, 24.75 and Powell I, 17.29. Just as in 1931, they had trouble reaching peak form early; they won from London Cricket Club, Kappa Alpha and the Old Boys, had two games drawn and two lost (Hamilton District and Mr. Dean's XI) before meeting the three schools.

They first defeated St. Andrew's handily 217-66 and then downed T.C.S., 187-139 (again at Armour Heights before the usual small crowd), but they struck a tartar in the Upper Canada XI. Ridley lost on U.C.C. grounds 119-147. Upper Canada were champions. (*Postscript*: There was an echo of distant Ridley years in 1932 through a fine article, *Cricket Records*, written for *Acta* by W. B. Jamieson, President of the St. Catharines Cricket Club. He related that for twelve years the world's record for throwing a cricket ball had been held by Ross Mackenzie, a Canadian. He had hurled a ball 140 yards, 9 inches. He was a Niagara Falls cricketer and lacrosse player. His widow, Mrs. Ross Mackenzie, had been the Lower School's first matron.)

The 1932 Championship Team (with quotes by the cricket reporter):

G. C. Powell I (captain): Fourth year. "Bore the brunt of the bowling. Improved batting; splendid fielder. As captain he worked hard and deserved great credit."

D. L. Clarke: Third year. "Improved in batting and fielding. Should be strong next year."

R. C. Ripley: Second year. "Good batsman and first-class fielder. Conscientious player."

A. L. McKinstry: Second year. "Greatly improved free style batting. Fair change bowler."

D. A. Harper: Second year. "A fair bat and fielder."

D. R. Owen: Second year. "A fine wicket-keeper."

F. H. Buck: Second year. "A very good slow bowler and excellent fielder."

F. M. O'Flynn: Second year. "Good fielder and useful bat."

R. S. Hart ma: Second year. "Improved batting; fair change bowler."

R. W. Mitchell ma: First year. "Fair bat and fielder; improved as season progressed."

W. M. Cameron: First year. "A good bowler who should be strong next year. Nervous batter."

Ridley's cricket tour in 1931 had been to new scenes – Bermuda – as guests of the Bermuda Cricket Association. Everyone played cricket in Bermuda, even small boys on the roads, and they had been attracted by reports of Ridley's prowess. The Ridley team sailed from New York on the *Veendam* on June 30, and had a wonderful week at Belmont Manor. They were easy victors in the first match against boys chosen from Bermuda's schools: Ridley won by an innings and 129 runs. ("We became better acquainted with a number of very charming young ladies, who were by no means the least attractive of the many attractions of Bermuda.") Perhaps their minds were on the ladies during the second match, chosen from Bermuda's Junior League, for they lost it: 106-103. They lost the next one, too: by 116 runs and five wickets. And also the final one, 167-110. But they brought back a new trophy – the Bermuda Cup – presented to the School by Governor Sir Thomas Cubitt for competition between Ridley's houses.

Ridley's cricketers did not go on tour when school closed in '32; instead they had an experience which thrilled them to the soles of their cricket shoes: they played against several of the world's crack players, including the legendary Don Bradman. On July 5 and 6, 1932, Arthur Mailey's Australian XI visited Ridley and, even if clearly over-matched, the selected Ridleian cricketers to face Australia's googly bowling and mighty batting were far from humiliated. Two one-day matches were played, with the Ridley team chosen from the current team plus seven Old Boys. They had perfect weather but also – literally – “a sticky wicket”. The turf was soggy from previous rain.

In the first game Ridley batted first with Billy Bell and Fielding Biggar the first pair to face Australian bowling. They made 18 runs. Archie Mix, who captained Ridley, carried the score to 35 when he was clean bowled by Mailey. He had made 11. Soanes was stumped at once. Ridley's great Clarke Bell came in and his bat began to stop the rot. As the score crept to 60, Biggar, Snyder and Seagram were dismissed in quick order. Spark stood steadfast but, for the moment, Ridley's chance to make a showing against Australia looked dim. But they were not done, because Spark Bell was not through.

Ripley next joined Bell, and together they carried Ridleys' score to 126, before Ripley who showed little fear of the dreaded googly bowling had collected 39, including six boundaries, before he was out. McKinstry and Bell then continued the scoring, with the board reading 160 runs before McKinstry was fooled by Fleetwood-Smith's bowling.

Dave Clarke then came in with Spark Bell and had the best innings of his season. He made 22 before he was bowled, with Bell reaching the heights; against the formidable Australian XI he passed his century, and had reached 109 not out when the innings was declared.

A Ridley century against the Australians? Unbelievable!

Ridley's runs stood at a magnificent 251 for 9. Spark Bell had hit 12 fours and 1 five as he scored his 109, which frankly astonished the Australians. They had not expected such competition in Canada.

In their innings they did not have time to make the necessary runs, but the calibre of Mailey's XI was revealed in a score of 186 with only 31 overs. Ridley was thrilled just to play the Australians, but their 186 for 1 wicket was breathtaking and a revelation of the brilliance of their bats.

Ridley had eighteen men to play, and several new hands faced the Australians' vaunted bowling on the second day: F. H. Buck, G. C. Powell, D. A. Harper, R. S. Hart, F. M. O'Flynn, D. R. Owen, R. W. Mitchell and W. M. Cameron. The others followed at bat in a second relay. They were badly sloughed, as the Aussies said, in their batting display: 112 for 17 wickets.

The Australians then made 309 for 6. The mighty Don Bradman made his century – 109 – before he was caught by the bowler, Cameron. He had the identical total made by Bell the day before.

After their distinguished cricket visitors had returned home via San Francisco, a clipping from the *Morning Herald* of Sydney, New South Wales, carried comments by columnist Victor Richardson, a strong player on the team: "There is opportunity for the encouragement of cricket among the Canadian public schools where baseball is now played. One of the nurseries of cricket in Canada is Ridley College at St. Catharines. . . . The match with the lads of the school, together with the Old Boys, provided the best cricket of the tour in my opinion. Bell, one of their young players, scored 102 (109) not out, the only century scored against the Australian team on the entire tour."

Ridley's cricketers did not forget their Australian guests for many a day. They had learned a lot of cricket, too.

The number of Ridley teams playing in this exultant cricket period was hard to estimate without careful checking. You count the First and Second elevens; the Under Sixteen XI; the Sixth and Fifth Form teams; the Junior League teams (*Crickets*, *Plebeians*, *Pirates*, *Sikhs* and *Aristocrats*); and the Lower School's first and second elevens. That adds up to twelve Ridley teams engrossed in the School's great game. In 1932 three scratch teams were organized – School House, Gooderham House and Merritt House – to launch the annual rivalry for the handsome new Bermuda Cup. In May, through June and into July, when the majority of Ridley's first team usually went on tour when the School closed, the boys talked or played cricket continuously, ate with cricket and, no doubt, slept with it. There were no ill effects on their academic progress; the percentage of successful papers written at examination time by cricketers continued to rise or at least to hold at a high level.

RIDLEY's annual Sports Day in 1931 and 1932 had wonderful weather and firm footing for their track-and-field events and, in both years, the largest Ridley crowds as yet to attend the School's day for field sports were assembled on Ridley's green campus. No one counted the visitors, of course, but they overflowed all facilities. The dispensers of cake, sandwiches, ice cream and cold drinks knew; the demand surpassed anything yet experienced. The fact that in 1931 the cornerstone was laid for the new, still-unchristened Ridley dormitory building by the Bishop of Niagara did not swell the crowd appreciably, for most of the dignitaries taking part would have been on hand in any event.

No explanation has been offered for the unusually large assemblies of parents and friends in these depression years but, on looking back, an Old Boy may have hit it: "They had the wish to lend moral support to Ridley in a difficult time, and perhaps they also had the human desire of harried people just to be among happy, unworried boys, who felt secure – more secure than many of their parents."

If this last thought was true, the peace of the cheerful atmosphere of Ridley's spacious green lawns and the solidarity and air of permanence of her ivied walls must have given her visitors fresh heart.

In 1932 a non-superstitious postponement of a week from Friday, May 13 avoided an all-day rain and saw the track-and-field events run off in brilliant weather on the following Friday. The officials were Mr. Brock, starter; Mr. Cockburn, timekeeper, and Announcer Harris ma "whose foghorn voice could be heard in every corner of the field". Despite some great senior running and jumping by O'Flynn and Powell I, the close struggle for the Junior Championship was the highlight of the 1932 games. Porter won the 100 and the 220, with Mitchell second in both, then Edgar won the quarter, with Mitchell again second, while Tony Cassels won the hurdles, was second in the half-mile and third in the 220. The point system gave the championship to Porter despite Mitchell's five seconds out of seven events, perhaps a record of sorts.

In both years many heats were still run off during the previous week, with some events completed, but the winners had a large audience when they stepped forward to accept their silverware and medals. It was always late in the day before the presentations could be made (by Mrs. D. T. Owen in 1931, and Mrs. H. G. Williams in 1932).

TRACK-AND-FIELD CHAMPIONS (1931-2)

	Senior	Intermediate	Junior	Lower School
1931	F. I. Nicholls	F. M. O'Flynn	D. G. B. Robinson III	R. F. Porter
1932	F. M. O'Flynn	D. G. B. Robinson III	R. F. Porter	H. S. Glassco

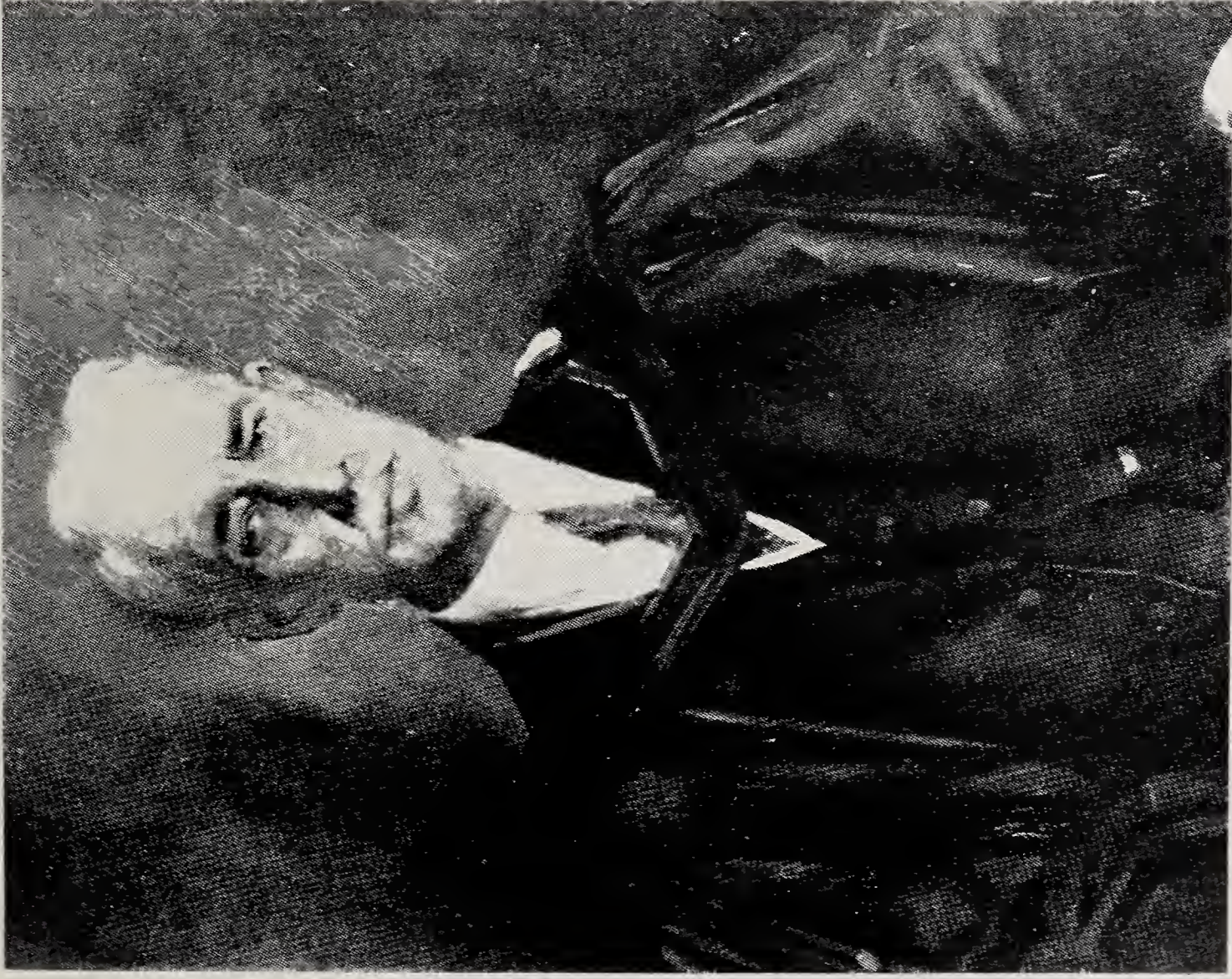
The Board of Governors had alterations in personnel to report. In 1932, Mr. Leighton McCarthy, President, Canada Life Assurance Company; Mr. H. B. Burgoyne, St. Catharines' Standard Publishing Co.; Mr. Frank Blaikie, Security Loan & Savings Co., and Mr. H. J. Carmichael, all became governors. The last three were also appointed to the local Board which still handled day-to-day problems of administration. Mr. Courtney Kingstone had been appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario which involved residence in Toronto.

All the new governors were present at these years' Prize Days which were also blessed with fine weather.

RIDLEY'S HIGHEST HONOURS: 1931-2

	MASON GOLD MEDAL FOR TRUE MANLINESS (on the vote of the boys)	HEAD BOY (Governor-General's Gold Medal)	HEAD BOY of the Lower School (Mason Gold Medal)
1931	P. F. Seagram	K. S. Harris	R. M. Davis
1932	G. C. Powell F. M. O'Flynn	K. S. Harris	J. S. Cameron

Conclusion of the Joint Principalship



H. G. WILLIAMS, B.A. (London), retires.

After 41 years at Ridley (1891-1932) the veteran head of the Lower School and Joint Principal of Ridley, retired.

(From an oil by John Russell.)



H. C. GRIFFITH, M.A., continues.

Following ten years of the Joint Principalship (1922-32), Mr. Griffith continued as sole Principal; there was no actual new appointment. (From an oil by John Russell.)



A FAMILY SCHOOL

The fathers of these boys at Ridley in 1932 were Old Boys (*front l. to r.*): V. P. Cronyn ('06-'13), D. H. C. Mason ('95-'01) and A. Jarvis, Jr. ('02-'12). *Centre row (seated)*: S. C. Snively ('97-'02); J. D. Beasley ('05); C. S. J. Trench ('96-'98); P. D. Mitchell ('98-'03); C. S. J. Trench, again; P. D. Mitchell, again; H. Cassels ('07-'13) and H. C. Griffith ('89-'96). *Back row*: A. E. Bryan ('03-'10) and H. D. Gooderham ('95-'02).

WINNERS OF SCHOLARSHIPS



R. B. D. HARRIS
(1927-30)

First Edward Blake Scholarship
in Mathematics; Wellington
Scholarships in Mathematics.



A. T. OLMSTED
(1924-9)

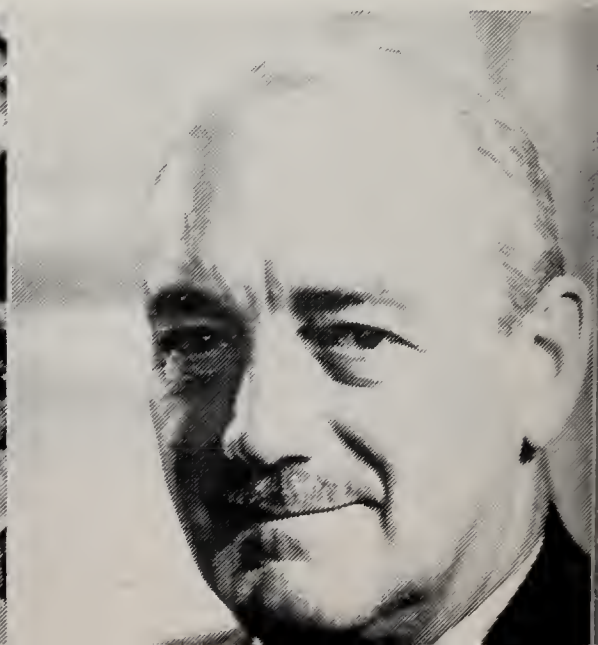
Bishop Strachan Scholarship
at Trinity College.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

S. C. NORSWORTHY ('95-'98)
(1930-1)

A. C. SNIVELY ('97-'00)
(1928-9)

J. GRANT GLASSCO ('16-'21)
(1937-8)



*The
Boxing
Finalists*

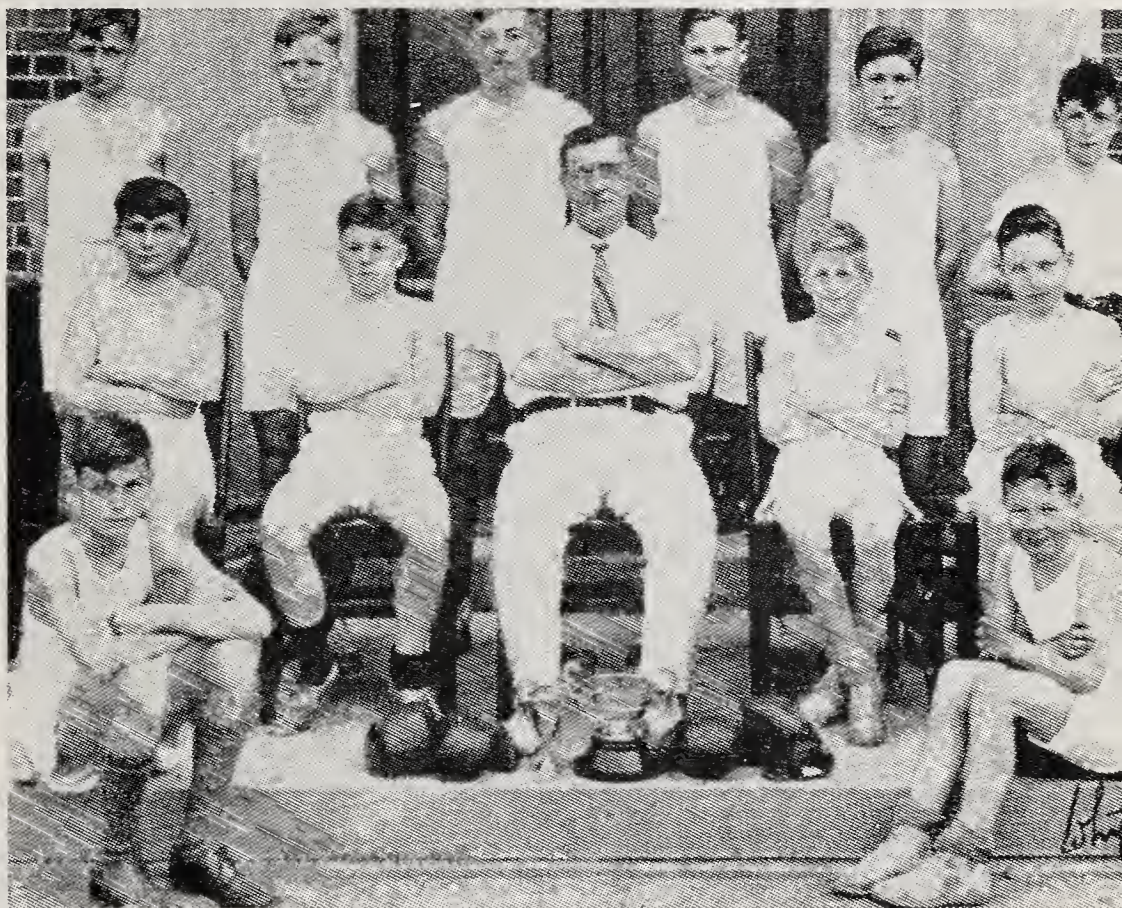
1932



UPPER SCHOOL. *Front:* P. E. Snyder; E. B. H. Fisher and D. J. Lindsay
ma. Rear: W. B. Wellington; R. S. Hart ma; F. I. Nicholls; Sergt. A. Alexander;
R. K. Mackenzie mi; E. L. Archer and W. D. W. Hilton.

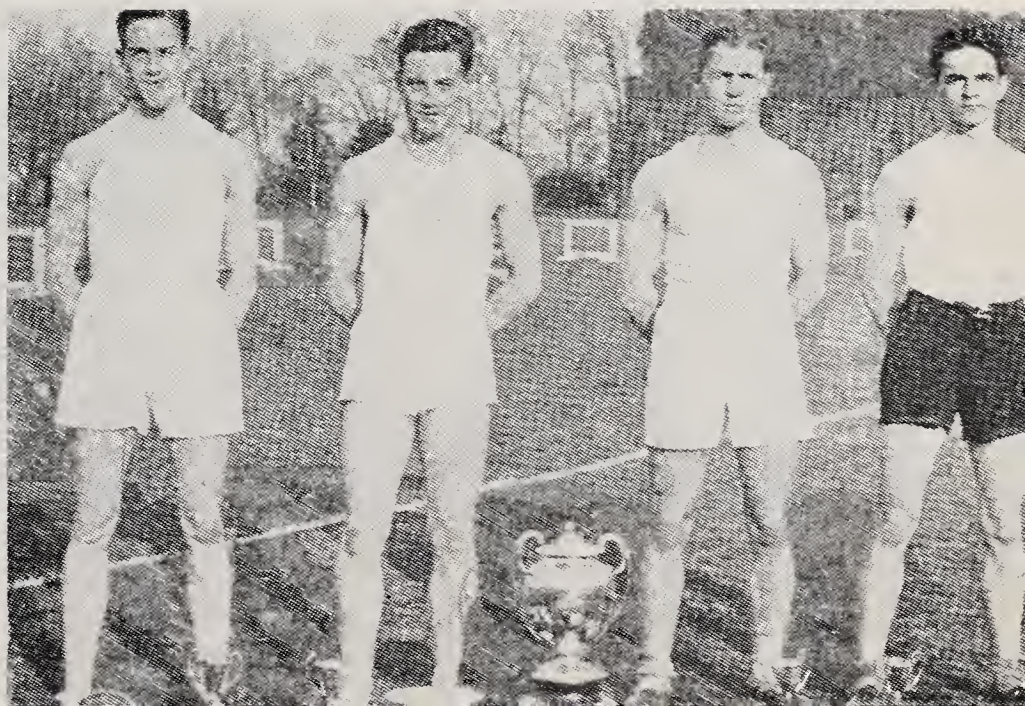
LOWER SCHOOL

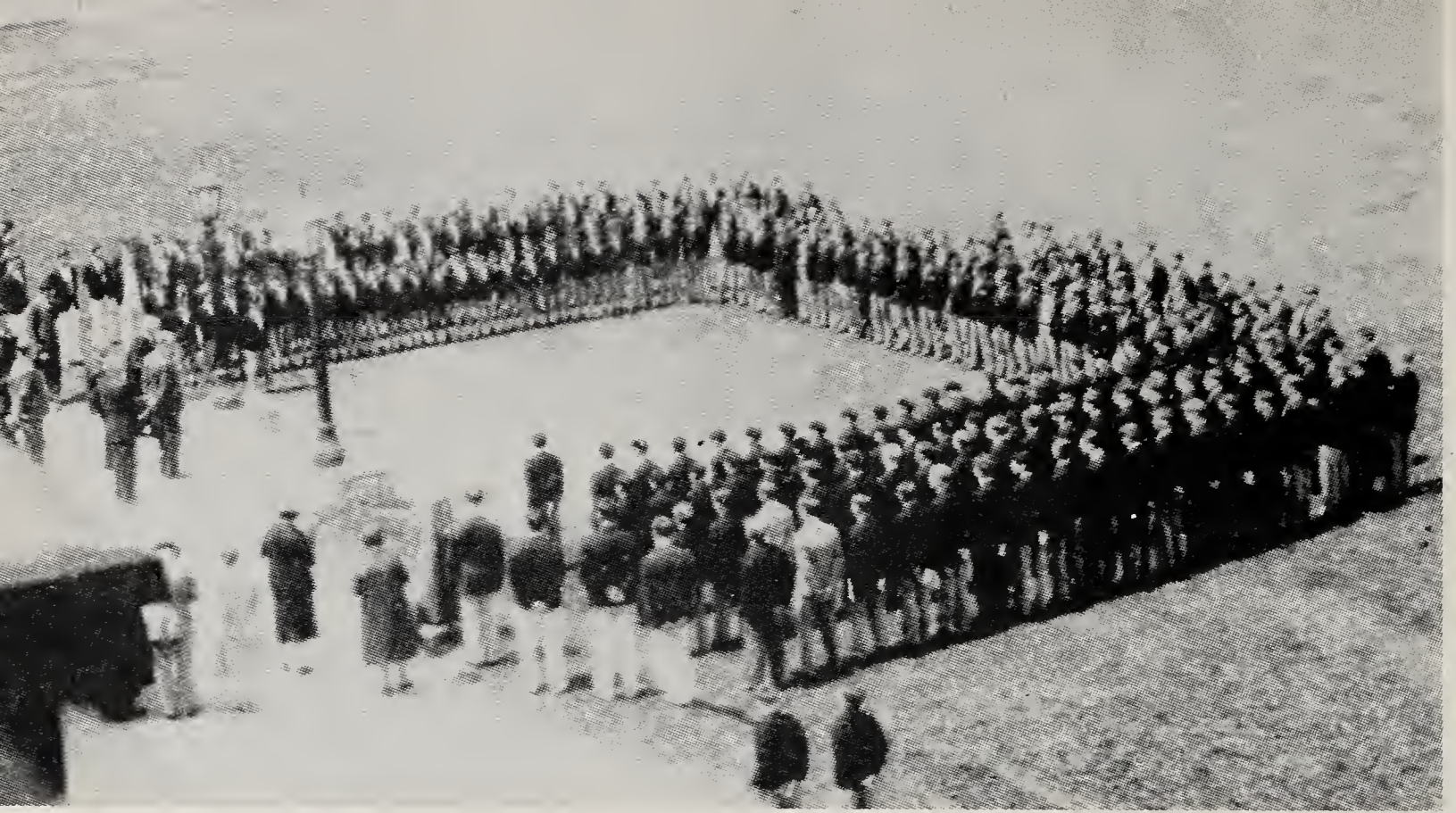
Front: A. J. Tanner and
F. M. Sutherland. *Centre:*
H. S. Glassco; R. S. Harris;
Sergt. Alexander; J. A. Salter
and W. B. C. Burgoyne. *Rear:*
R. M. Davis; R. P. Rigby mi;
F. E. Wellington mi; J. B. H.
Rigby ma; T. A. Witzel and
L. J. Ashburner mi.



FAMOUS 4-WAY TIE

Four athletes tied for the Senior
Championship on Sports Day,
1929: Gale, Harvey, Subosits
and Fischer.





The School in hollow-square greets visiting headmasters of famous English public schools.



Interesting Visitors

Lord Willingdon drops in for lunch.



THE AUSTRALIAN XI VISIT RIDLEY (1932)

Ridley's cricketers played against the great Don Bradman and other world-famous cricketers in a two-day match. Clarke Bell scored a century against their famous googly and fast bowling.

PRINCIPAL H. G. WILLIAMS RESIGNS

THE staff changes in September, 1931 had been numerous, and there was one which was momentous the following year. The veteran Principal of the Lower School resigned.

The decision to retire by Ridley's beloved Mr. Williams, a legendary Ridley personality in his lifetime, appeared a sudden thing to many Old Ridleians because he had been such a familiar pillar of the School. His close friends knew he had been contemplating withdrawing from the responsibilities of principal for some time; he was feeling his years and duties which for so long had been taken in easy stride had become difficult.

He had given no hint of his decision on Prize Day, 1931, when he and Mrs. Williams had sat at the head table at luncheon with the Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Geo. S. Henry and Mrs. Henry, Principal and Mrs. Griffith, Col. and Mrs. Arthur Bishop and Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Kennedy, or when in the gymnasium later he told of the Lower School at work and play. But Prize Day of 1932 was like a great farewell party for him. ("Once we knew his decision was irrevocably made, the feeling of everyone in the School, boys and masters alike, was to make this Prize Day the best in the history of Ridley.") It was in this mood that the School bade a formal farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Williams in 1932. Before the platform, in crowded rows, sat boys, masters, parents – all friends – and in this intimate atmosphere Mr. Williams was the central figure, presenting the prizes, the role usually taken by a guest of honour, and making the one speech that mattered. It was Rep Williams' day; he was the Guest of Honour.

His speech was whimsical and witty, filled with pride in Ridley. He told how he first came to Ridley, of first meeting his wife-to-be in Paris, of receiving letters about the vacancy in the classics department of a boys' boarding school in St. Catharines, and of his applying to the Reverend Mr. Miller for the position. He was given the mathematical mastership on arrival, forty-one years ago.

He passed on once more to the boys of Ridley the three precepts he had so often stressed to different groups of them through the years:

*Be faithful to the little things;
Do not follow the crowd; and
Hold fast to your self-respect.*

*A tie (opposite page) in the boys' vote to designate the recipient of Ridley's most important annual honour was not to be as rare as it had seemed the first time it occurred. That was in 1925, when the votes tallied exactly even for M. H. Snyder and H. B. Soanes. The same oddity had again occurred in 1932, only seven years later. It would recur in 1952.

Rep Williams had freely given the boys of Ridley so many wise adages and little hints and kindly reminders that a boy could not pass through Lower School without taking much of Mr. Williams away with him. A dedicated schoolmaster who found deep satisfaction in his calling, he never forgot that each class of boys was as infinitely varied as human nature itself and that each boy was unique, a personality in his own right and infinitely important. Of the hundreds of Old Boys who had gone through his Lower School, each one could recall his personal touch which always either had immediate meaning or a value in some far-reaching way. At a loss to describe him adequately, and what he had meant to them, they fall back to this day on Col. Arthur Bishop's terse phrase: "One of God's very great Christian gentlemen."

Acta Ridleiana, autumn of 1932, was an H. G. Williams issue; that is, eulogies of him dominated its articles, house and sports reports. Julian Street ('93-'96) wrote: "He is a great teacher – and great teachers are extremely rare. He is an artist at teaching, and like all great artists he has followed his art for the pure love of it, and in doing so has vastly benefited mankind. His heart is great, his wisdom is great, and he is a great gentleman." S. C. Norsworthy ('95-'98) and J. L. C. McCarthy ('24-'32) also wrote, and the Reverend Dr. J. O. Miller, *Principal Emeritus*, said: "If Mr. Williams has achieved riches for himself, they have come about through long years of trying to implant them (Faith, Virtue, Knowledge, Temperance, Patience, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Charity) in the personalities of his pupils. His compensations are their achievements. They indicate the type of Canadian citizen he has striven to produce. . . .

"May his years of rest from active work be filled with happiness."

Ernie Powell, himself a pillar of Ridley, wrote the editorial lead for the Mr. Williams issue of *Acta* (which Mr. Williams had edited in the early Nineties). He recalled the feature of Ridley's character which had attracted him to Ridley in far-off Canada and which is still the distinctive mark of Ridley. It was the ideals of the unknown school which had drawn him to Canada. "These ideals set down in the (first) school calendar made a deep impression on this young man, who felt that to help develop a manly Christian character in the youth of a young country was a much higher ambition than to turn out scholarship winners."

Mr. Williams remained near Ridley. Before Christmas, 1932 he had moved into Rodman Hall, old home of the Merritt family. On occasion he would judge contests, and he even taught a few classes. His door was always open to staff and boys.

Replacing him as Head of the Lower School was Mr. E. V. Brown who had been eight years at Appleby. (His title was: Master-in-Charge.) With Mrs. Brown and their daughter he moved into Mr. Williams' house. Mr. H. F. Ketchum, an Old Boy of T.C.S. (who remained one year) and Mr. G. Morris,

a Cambridge graduate (who was still with Ridley in 1959) were new masters to join Mr. Brockwell, the sole master remaining from the previous term because of staff reduction due to a diminished number of boarders. It was noted that economic conditions were seriously restricting the number of new boys arriving to enter the Lower School, but there were at least no withdrawals of current boys in the autumn of '32. ("It is hoped attendance has reached an all-time low.")

Thus, with no apparent change in school policy, academically or otherwise, and certainly without the slightest disruption, the period of Ridley's dual principalship came to an end. Principal H. C. Griffith was given authority over Ridley as a whole from September 1, 1932.

The Depression Strikes the School

"The Governors were . . . far from being so panic-stricken they would risk some desperation-measure which might alter the traditional character of Ridley."

THE full impact of the Great Depression did not strike Ridley until 1932, but before this point it was realized that Ridley was not going to escape without serious adversity. The School's student roll had been shrinking alarmingly, beginning with the market crash. Only three new boys had turned up on opening day in September, 1932, for the Lower School, and if there were more for the Upper School this was a disturbing implication; the Lower School normally compensated for 50 per cent of the graduates and withdrawals of the whole school. Could this dangerous trend be checked in time?

The all-time Ridley peak in total students to date (as already noted) had been reached in the spring of 1929, when 296 were on the rolls of both schools. In September it had dropped only slightly to 287 students. But the total then went down to 258 in September, 1930, and in the following September it dropped by another thirty boys to 228. The depression-drop to the end of 1931 was thus sixty-eight students from the peak, but 228 were still enough for economical operation. They hoped this was the low point.

It wasn't! Ridley then suffered her private economic crash; in September, 1932 the attendance plummeted to a shocking 187, with only twenty-eight boys to live in the Lower School; the three lonely new boys who had appeared in September were sons of Old Boys, or there would have been no new admittances. This was the most disturbing factor of all; from the number of new boys entering the Lower School each September the future income from fees for the entire school could be reasonably estimated. There were eventually thirty-two in the Lower School that term, counting day-boys, but it was apparent that the shrinkage could become fatal if the Lower School failed in providing replacements for departures.

In the spring of 1932, when the Bishop of Niagara laid the cornerstone for Ridley's new dormitory building, it had been evident to Principal Griffith and the Governors that Ridley could soon be facing a serious situation. The School's future already looked bleak and before opening day in September

there was a ray of light nowhere, but they had not really expected such a drop in numbers.

The following is the attendance (both schools) in each September since the first postwar peak in 1922. It discloses that Ridley had indeed been hit hard in 1932:

<i>Year</i> (Sept.)	<i>Total</i> <i>Students</i>	<i>Year</i> (Sept.)	<i>Total</i> <i>Students</i>
1922	204	1928	283
1923	197	1929	296
1924	183	1930	258
1925	194	1931	228
1926	231	1932	187
1927	237		

Where would the Lower School's share of replacements be found for next June's senior graduates from the Upper School?

If this rapid shrinkage were not abruptly checked Ridley could melt away through the attrition of depression and time, and not much time.

With attendance down by a hundred boys, the new dormitory to house seventy-three additional boarders seemed incongruous, even foolish evidence of Ridleian confidence. The new building was still unnamed, as if there were a tendency not to see it or to take it seriously or perhaps to pretend it wasn't there. It was still being referred to variously as the New House or New Dean's House or, most often, as the West House, none of which would do.

"I cannot give you the name of our new building," Mr. Griffith had told the *Toronto Globe* at the time of the cornerstone ceremony in the spring. "It is not yet named. I would suggest Faith, because that is what it is being built on."

Faith was indeed a good name for the new Ridley building. It was built on earnings, on donations and by virtue of an overdraft (which did not completely disappear from the books until 1937).

The chairman of the building committee, Col. A. L. Bishop, had reported at the end of 1931 that the final cost of all building and renovating during the year was: the new dormitory, \$156,326.21; the School House, \$42,400.01. The latter sum referred to the cost of thorough renovation of the School House, which had gone on during 1931 in further defiance of depression and the shrinking student roll. The School House had its corridors fire-proofed; steel staircases were installed; some sleeping quarters were changed to class and sick rooms. *Hoppers* – so called because it was so close to the master's top-floor study that sudden hopping back into bed had been developed into a fine art – and *Forty Below*, a chilly place – were no longer dormitories. There was also a general repair programme, including work on the green slate roof.

How optimistic the Board of Governors had been in 1929, and even during threatening 1930, was illustrated by their instructions to Marani, Lawson and Morris, the School's architects, to prepare a preliminary sketch of the future Ridley. It revealed their dream of a wonderful Ridley Quadrangle (requiring more new construction than was completed to the end of 1959). The sketch suggested how the new Lower School and the Upper School and its houses could be linked by a new dining room, new classroom buildings and more new dormitories, the whole enclosing and looking inward upon the great green central field. The Ridley Quadrangle never went beyond the suggestion stage; it was a brave dream which the Great Depression very effectively shattered. But none could say that Ridley's Governors were not forward-looking.

However, there must have been some disturbed minds on the Board while the new building and renovating proceeded during 1931 as the optimism died which had sprung from a crowded school and that all-time record attendance in 1929. The bank overdraft in 1932 was a shocker; at one point it reached nearly \$64,000, at least partly because of a great number of outstanding delinquent accounts. There was sound reason for the sharp worry of many boys about family inability to pay Ridley's fees. Most of the deferred fees were eventually paid, and the bank was lenient in pressing Ridley, but some of the debts had to be written off; some family fortunes never recovered from the sudden financial débâcle of 1929 which triggered the Great Depression.

On the urging of the Board all efforts by Mr. Griffith and his staff were now concentrated on dealing with an encroaching crisis. The Old Boys were urged to seek new students. The sons of Old Boys were placed on preferred or even deferred fees if they were in arrears. Parents living in sterling areas, such as Bermuda, were assured of discounts. Special discounts had been offered for brothers for a considerable time. The policy of the depression during the Nineties was not repeated, when some parents were allowed to "pay whatever they could", but things were very serious.

Before the School broke up for the summer holidays of 1932 the most drastic of all moves had been made, one that had been already instituted in almost all phases of Canadian life, including education. In June the entire staff was asked to accept a 10 per cent reduction in their salaries, effective in September. (*Postscript*: It was done, but 50 per cent of the cut was restored in 1933 by a bonus. This procedure was then followed to 1937 when the cut itself was restored.)

At the same time several members of the Lower School staff had to be told their services would not be needed until the attendance was greatly increased from its present dismaying total of only twenty-eight boys. The overhead of the Lower School was seriously out of balance.

A publicity man was hired but was considered a failure. The idea for his

retention arose from the sensible suggestion that more parents might be persuaded to become Ridley-minded if more publicity on Ridley's events could be achieved in Toronto's newspapers. Perhaps results were expected too soon, but more likely the economic situation simply rendered his effort futile. Another idea was to run advertisements in American publications in some American cities. They bore no fruit. Still another scheme was to set up special entrance scholarships, actually bursaries, to attract boys from various junior schools. That was also fruitless, except for a single new student. These were all suggestions by the special committee set up to explore Ridley's problems and find possible answers. Food costs and purchasing methods were closely checked, but no one recalls an added frugality in Ridley's meals. All suggestions on reducing the term fees were refused. To the eternal credit of Ridley's Board of these years, recurring proposals were also turned down to obtain more day-boys at special rates. The Governors were seriously worried in 1931 and 1932, in the latter year especially, but they were still very far from being so panic-stricken they would risk some desperation-measure which might alter the traditional character of Ridley.

The alarm in 1932 over the School's operational position was real enough, but this would be dispelled if the shrinkage in attendance could be halted by 1933. When looked at calmly, the low of 187 students in 1932 was still higher than it had been in 1924 when an attendance of only 183 had been considered more than economically satisfactory. Ridley's principal apprehension was actually based on her inability to maintain her 1929 peak.

THE DEPRESSION DORMITORY

THE nameless new dormitory, standing between the rink and the chapel, and waiting to greet the returning school in September, looked like a proud building, not at all ashamed of itself for the air of affluence it bore in a time of economic blight. Unhappily, with a hundred less boys in attendance than when the decision was taken to erect it, the provision to house an additional seventy-three boarding students and three masters was not something to celebrate so, for the first time in the history of the School, a new Ridley building was not ushered into use with an official opening ceremony. The masters were returning to take a 10 per cent cut in their salaries, and the thought probably was that the less fuss made about it the better.

It was a handsome building, and it would be needed far sooner than its critics could realize, but just now its very newness seemed to shout of a strategic mistake. This proved not to be so. The Governors were illustrating a sublime and justified faith in Canada and Ridley. The School recovered more quickly than the country but their faith was still confirmed in both.

Designed by Marani, Lawson and Morris, a housemaster's residence was

attached and, architecturally, it merged beautifully with the general quiet impressiveness of the older Ridley buildings. Constructed of red brick and white stone by Wilde & Bryden, the new Ridley addition was planned to a "late Stuart design" and was set off by a green slate roof to match the new roof on the School House.

Before the boys arrived to move in, the christening was at least settled: the new dormitory would not be called the New Dean's House or the West House but Merritt House.

When they did arrive there was much confusion, and not a little disgruntlement by displaced persons, until the re-shuffle of accommodation had everyone settled and straightened away. They found many surprising changes. *Cosy Corners* in the School House had become a science lab; *Hoppers* and *Forty Below* were equally astonishing to the boys who rushed to the top floor to take over the dormitory rooms they had staked out for themselves in June; *Hoppers* was a sick room; *Forty Below* had become a classroom, brightened by new, wide vita-glass windows. Denizens of the Dean's House wailed in protest; it was temporarily closed and all they could do was to write nostalgic articles for *Acta* later about their old home. This looked like the end of the Dean's House, built in 1908, but returning prosperity came to its rescue.

Mr. Thomas, housemaster of the new Merritt House, assisted by Messrs. Sherrell, Knights and Brierley waited until the dormitory confusion began to sort itself out and then were the welcoming committee of Merritt House as their new residents arrived by twos and threes from their old houses.

In the first Merritt House Notes in *Acta* D. J. Byers wrote enthusiastically of all the school notables who were residents – "gladiators of the football field, lithe pacers from the Cross-Country Derby, veteran hockey players, sage cricketers, gymnasts, musicians and boxers." Merritt House also had four football colours and five old hockey colours; two basketball colours and eight cricket colours. ("As yet our internal activities are struggling to take hold. If they continue at their present rate, they promise to strike an original note in the clubs and societies of Ridley.")

The name of the new house was well chosen; it not only honoured the memory of Ridley's first president, Thomas Rodman Merritt (1889-99), it also recognized the affinity between Ridley and the history of its environs. It was the father of T. R. Merritt, the Hon. W. H. Merritt, who had brought the first Welland Canal to completion. The name of Merritt was symbolic of the development of The Twelve and of St. Catharines itself. It had been partly through T. R. Merritt that the attention of Ridley's founders was attracted to Springbank Sanatorium, and thus that Ridley came to be located at St. Catharines. As president he had then watched over the establishment of the School's first home and had guided its destiny through its first uncertain

years. Before he died in 1906 he arranged the endowment of his Merritt Gold and Silver Medals, which are still presented to the boy achieving the highest marks in Honour and Pass Matriculation.

As the term opened, a series of staff changes took place in addition to the move by Mr. C. E. H. Thomas, M.A., into Merritt House as its first housemaster, with C. M. Sherrell, M.A., as his first assistant. *Acta* had lost its editor and Gooderham House its housemaster, for C. G. M. Grier, M.A., had left to be headmaster of Bishop's College School at Lennoxville, P.Q., with the best wishes of the staff and boys of Ridley going with him. Mr. J. R. Hamilton, B.A., moved into Gooderham House with his family as its new housemaster, and Mr. R. S. Cockburn became the new editor of *Acta*.

There were still more changes. Mr. Terence Cronyn moved from Lower School to Upper School, and Mr. F. Duxbury, B.A., returned to Cambridge. Mr. R. L. White had also left to take charge of the English department of a school near Chicago. He had been on the staff of *Acta* and his last notable contribution appeared in the Christmas issue of 1930; titled *On Christmas Carols*, it was one of the finest literary efforts to appear in the journal up to this time. Mr. J. J. Knights, a graduate of Upper Canada and U. of T., had joined the English department in 1931 to replace Mr. White.

Merritt House had again changed Ridley's skyline, making it more imposing, and there had been another change down by the gates which held a touch of ancient Ridley history. The old Hainer house at the entrance to the school grounds had at last been razed. It will be recalled that the house had been left in the Hainer will when the farm was sold to Ridley, to be Miss Hainer's residence as long as she lived. As late as May, 1929 the local Board had lost its patience with the dilapidated condition of the Hainer property as an introduction for visitors to Ridley's grounds; they had suggested to Miss Hainer that she might accept her mortgage and leave. She would not, and did not, and so the old farm house, with its staggering collection of outbuildings, each leaning on another, its grape vines and its old green wooden fence, had remained to greet Ridley's visitors until Miss Hainer had died. The one attractive attribute about the property at the gates had been the beautiful, if cluttered, old garden with its masses of yellow roses. When not in bloom, the place was an eyesore, so Ridley was pleased to forego the roses for the sake of the fine, clear view at the corner of the driveway.

The passing of the old Hainer buildings left the old Cricket House and the Pro's House in undisputed possession of the honour of being, respectively, the oldest Ridley-built structure and the last tangible remnant of Pioneer Hainer's homestead. Built in 1891, when the School was on the other side of the canal, the Cricket House then had no porch and no outside bench. It had been a locker hut for the convenience of the boys and the staff who did not wish to lug their equipment across the canal from Springbank to the cricket

or football field. The Cricket House was then located at the top of the stone steps which led up from the canal, about where the Headmaster's House now stands. (The stone slabs of the steps had been distributed among the staff as verandah steps and walks.) The Cricket House was moved out of sight in 1904-5 when School House was built, with its back to a gully (now filled) which then separated the main playing field from the present site of Merritt House. It was moved in 1923 to its present inconspicuous position, huddled beside the corner of Ridley's back road. It had now returned to its original purpose as a storage shed for sports equipment, including a tractor. The Pro's House (55-57 Dexter Street) was originally a barn or shed of the old Hainer farm, purchased by Ridley in 1899. It was moved many times and played several roles, including that of a golf club house, before being converted into a two-family dwelling. (In 1959, Tom Coburn, the Pro, and E. Renals, school engineer, and their families, were living in it.)

IS LATIN REALLY NECESSARY?

ALL educators had been seriously concerned during the careless years of the Roaring Twenties about the marked deterioration in the use of English, and Ridley was still doing everything possible to counteract it. The effort to maintain good English usage now inspired a controversy about the value of studying Latin in Canadian schools, especially at Ridley. Adopting the sound publishing premise that controversy creates reader-interest, one was deliberately launched by an article in *Acta* with the challenging title: *Is Latin Really Necessary?*

Written by J. G. Little, a Fifth Former and also a sub-editor, the article roused satisfactory discussions in all forms and houses as well as in the classrooms. Latin had always been a requirement of both Pass and Honour Matriculation standards, but night-working students had been asking this same question querulously or plaintively or indignantly for years. Said Editor Little:

In the matriculation forms we spend five of the thirty teaching hours a week on a dead language. We spend a very large proportion of our evening study time at the same language.

When we investigate the modern practical uses of Latin, we find that they are very few. You will find it in legal documents in civil law, but very few lawyers will use it in arguing cases . . . doctors in training have to have a working knowledge of it . . . clergymen have recourse to it occasionally, but . . . as a spoken language Latin is dead; it has been dead since the Reformation, or since it got into the hands of organized medicine.

Do we study it for the literature in it? If we do, all I can say is that it is so cluttered up with scansion, quantities, cases, moods, tenses and genders that it almost ceases to bear any relation to literature.

If the work of Caesar, Virgil, Horace and the rest can be translated, why not let us read them in translation, and for pleasure as well as profit?

Perhaps we study Latin so that we may have a knowledge of grammar . . . release us from Latin grammar and we'll dig into English gladly. If Latin makes us more familiar with the English language . . . why do we not study Old French and Anglo-Saxon?

We feel that Latin is an unintelligent survival . . . surely good economics scholars would be more useful to the modern world than good Latin scholars.

Note: We hope that a staunch supporter of Latin will reply to this.

It was well and truly answered in 1931, in a most entertaining way (by four different imaginary correspondents). The first was purported to be Mr. Eli Wimple, a successful rubber-heel manufacturer of Oskosh, Wisc., who valued his early training in Latin very highly – for its snob appeal. At an Elks convention the guest speaker opened his address by saying “*Omnia Gallus in tres pars divisum est*” (sic). Mr. Wimple was inordinately proud to be pointed out as the only Elk in the entire conclave who understood what the man said. He plumped for Latin in the schools.

The second correspondent wrote:

*Latin is a dead language
As dead as dead can be,
It killed all the Romans
And now it's killing me.*

A third quoted from a play presented by the Gooderham House Players Club:

Henry: “Good gracious. If you had a smattering of education you wouldn't say such things. It comes from having no religion and no education, and not knowing Latin.”

Cath: “Thank heavens I don't know Latin. Stupid, superstitious language, fit only for bigots and monks.”

The final answer to *Is Latin Really Necessary?* was so succinct it was held by the editors of *Acta* to be unanswerable and to make further debate unnecessary. A prominent St. Catharines scholar emphatically said:

“YES!”

The debate on *Is Latin Necessary?* could not be permitted to end in such a facetious way, of course. Scholarly Ridley was quite serious in contending

that Latin was indeed necessary to the education of the whole man, apart entirely from its aid toward disciplined thinking. Whether or not Authority inspired it, an unidentified classical scholar using the pseudonym *Classicus* took his stand in favour of Latin in *Acta Ridleiana* in 1932. His contention was that not only Latin but also Greek were essential if education was not to be confined to a materialistic end. He used a Latin quotation for his opening: "*Ecce deum genitor rutilus per nubila flammæ spargit, et effusis æthera siccant aquis.*" (Ovid, *Fasti*.) He translated this to say, "From cloud to cloud the rending lightnings rage." The scholarly *Classicus* had something to say and said it well:

The materialistic world in this nineteen hundred and thirty-second year of our Lord is on trial. The clouds are lowering everywhere. Our neighbour to the south is in the throes of a cataclysm. Europe is in a state of bankruptcy. Rifts appear from time to time in the sky, only to disappear again. What is the reason? Is our whole system of civilization at fault, or is it that our minds are trained to consider wealth and the acquiring of it as an end in itself?

Surely this is the time to take stock of oneself and ask where the root of the evil lies. . . .

Is our education at fault? Is the purpose of our education too materialistic and purely utilitarian? Should it not be something infinitely more enlightening and on a far higher plane? At the present time the cry is for the abolition of the *litteræ humaniores* and for concentration on the needs of the present. . . .

If happiness is the aim of human endeavour, then the satisfying of one's soul and one's spiritual aspirations should count before, or at least as much as, a mere sordid application to one's immediate necessities. It has been, and still is, the contention of many that the study of the so-called dead languages affords the student something which he can never lose and money can never buy.

There is no doubt that an appreciation of Latin and Greek helps us to appreciate our own literature and gives us a solace in our maturer years, when the more strenuous activities are barred to us. We may be good at making aeroplanes and machinery of all sorts but the perusal of Greek and Latin authors reminds us that there is another way of living than our own. . . .

Although Romans and Greeks spoke different languages, you cannot really learn about one without the other, and much of what we get from the Greeks comes to us from the Romans. To learn Latin without Greek is like trying to fly with one wing or swim with one arm. . . .

What is wrong with us today? The Greeks answered that question more than 2,000 years ago. Socrates tells us that power, success and worldly empire did not matter at all, nor riches, nor grandeur, but what did matter was a man's soul. The Greek treasure was in the Kingdom of the spirit, in thoughts and feelings and understanding.

. . . the Greek and Roman languages are not really dead to those who have eyes to see and ears with which to hear; that indeed they are vitally

alive to those who have the courage to overcome the initial difficulties in their years at school and the desire to pursue the study of them in their later life.

Without apology.

— *Classicus*

The exponents of Latin as a compulsory matriculation subject held such strong convictions in the Thirties about its retention, they would have considered the suggestion preposterous that, by the late Fifties, Cambridge would abolish Latin as an entrance requirement and Oxford would do so for science students. Yet this happened. They would have been even more scornful of the prediction in 1932 that in the future Age of Science British education would turn away from traditional concentration on the liberal arts and the classics and strongly toward technical subjects, while American education would be seen taking the opposite trend. This happened, too; by 1959 there had been such an increase in the overall enrolment of American students taking Latin that it stood second only to Spanish in the language subjects. Latin was in a state of resurgence in nearly all U.S. colleges. "The classics are wanted now because they nourish our souls amid bursting atom bombs and satellites flashing across the heavens," said an American educator in 1959. But just now, these things were still far in the future.

CHAMPIONS ONCE, TWICE AND AGAIN

STIFF challenges faced the football team of 1931; football championships had been won in three completed seasons and four-in-a-row would be tough; in addition, F. I. Nicholls, captain, and coaches Griffith and Brock had only three old colour men for the new team's base of experience.

They were a light team so they were thoroughly trained in plays calling for speed. After only a single game they knew that the intention to produce a quick-scoring Ridley team had worked like a charm. Ridley's football Firsts of 1931 not only proved exceptional in their ability to launch their plays rapidly and score quickly, they were all-conquering. They played seven games and won them all! Considering that eleven boys of the first team were first-year colours this must emphasize the effectiveness of the coaching policy and the early drilling.

Their speed more than offset their handicap in weight or any defensive lack; their facility to gain points quickly is clearly evident in the record of points (for and against) over the season: Ridley scored 207 points against seven rivals, with only 41 scored against them.

Parkdale Collegiate (31-1), Thorold ORFU Intermediates (36-12), Jarvis

Collegiate (31-12) and the Old Boys (26-1) went down in order before Ridley tackled their three rival schools of the Little Big Four.

The fine weather broke for the Upper Canada game, the first school match. U.C.C. came to St. Catharines for it, and they had Ontario autumn weather at its most miserable. A cold driving rain began at starting time which was soon a deluge. ("The field was a quagmire of slippery mud, the players almost indistinguishable except in the way they lined up, the ball was a slippery thing of sluggish and cantankerous nature, and the spectators were wet in body but uplifted, at least the School's supporters, in spirit.") Surprisingly, there were few fumbles as Ridley displayed a line without a weakness, plus brilliant receiving and running by G. C. Powell and his captain, F. I. Nicholls. It was 27-2 against U.C.C. at half-time. Ridley added another 16 points in the last-half with U.C.C. unable to add a point. Final score: 43-2.

St. Andrew's gave Ridley a tougher tussle but could not score a point and were whitewashed, the game ending 22-0 for Ridley. McNett, Harris and Nicholls were again the star ground gainers and ball carriers for Ridley, with Powell a magnificent punting half-back.

Then, because T.C.S. had been soundly beaten by both U.C.C. and St. Andrew's, Ridley grew unwisely cocky and considered the Trinity game a foregone conclusion. They were fooled, as Nicholls, their captain, had warned them in vain; for most of the game the score was so close it looked as if Ridley might drop the potentially easiest game of their season. It was 7-1 in Ridley's favour at the end of the first quarter and 13-7 at the half, and then Trinity put Ridley's back to the wall for long, agonizing moments. At three-quarter time it was 16-13, with Ridley clinging grimly to their narrow margin of 3 points. ("The cockiness and complacency were out of them, but it looked as if Nicholls would be too late to make them bear down." – Old Boy.) In the last quarter Ridley tightened just enough to add one more point, the game ending 17-13.

Despite the palpitations inflicted on their supporters, the team with only three second-year colour men (Fred Nicholls, Jim McNett, Ian Maclachlan) had been magnificent. The first-year men had improved beyond expectations; in the later games they disclosed the football instincts of tried veterans. If there had been nothing spectacular in their season, there was in the narrow escape of the finish.

The championship won by Ridley in 1931 was their fourth football triumph in a row, even if 1930 had seen a split championship with T.C.S. They had never before achieved this.

The 1931 championship team:

F. I. Nicholls (captain): – "Showed great improvement. A stronger runner and kicker. He was indefatigable and as captain his work had much to do with the great success of the team."

J. C. McNett (left outside and quarter). – “Splendid tackler and really fine outside wing. After Ripley’s injury he played quarter and did double duty. Deserves great credit.”

I. K. Maclachlan I (left middle). – “One of the best middle wings Ridley has ever had. Strong plunger, very fast.”

G. C. Powell I (centre-half). – “One of the best kicking halfbacks in the history of Ridley though a first-year man.”

L. I. Armstrong (left-half). – “Fast, good runner, splendid line plunger.”

R. C. Ripley (quarter). – “One of youngest and lightest players on the team. A fast thinker and a good field general.”

D. A. Mackenzie ma (snap). – “Got the ball out fast and clean. Good tackler.”

D. N. C. McIntyre I (right scrimmage). – “Fast and strong on defence. Quick in breaking up plays.”

J. M. Harris ma (right middle). – “One of the strongest players on the line, and like Maclachlan one of the best middles in Ridley’s history; a first year man.”

K. S. Harris mi (left scrimmage). – “Youngest player on the team. Strong. Broke up plays repeatedly. A very valuable member of the team.”

A. H. Kingsmill (left inside). – “Fast, and a splendid tackler. Good line plunger; strong on defence.”

J. B. Gartshore (right inside). – “Improved greatly as season progressed. Very strong line plunger.”

J. H. Belton (right outside). – “Fearless tackler; good ball handler, and fast following down.”

E. Rossiter (left outside). – “A young player; took McNett’s place when latter went to quarter. Good tackler and energetic player.”

W. C. L. Barker (flying wing). – “Hard, determined player. Useful work on left defence and played a keen game at all times.”

Substitutes: D. S. Hart ma; D. A. Harper; E. L. Archer; F. D. Gooderham I; D. R. Owen; D. H. Doig and W. L. Vick.

The average age of the team was sixteen years, nine months; their weight average was 158.2 pounds.

In 1932, Ridley again had a captain – J. M. Harris – who was only a two-year colour and there was no player of greater experience on the School team. They won all their games except two – the opener against Jarvis Collegiate (5-17) and the last game of the season against Upper Canada, which they dropped 4-10. In losing to U.C.C. they blew both the 1932 championship and the rare chance to win football championships in five seasons in succession, if the blank 1928 season is considered. “That loss to U.C.C. spoiled the Christmas season and most of the winter for a lot of us,” said an Old Boy.

When Ridley and U.C.C. met in Toronto on Friday, November 4, for the decisive match, each team had already defeated St. Andrew’s and T.C.S. Ridley had defeated St. Andrew’s 46-6 on October 22 and T.C.S. 12-1 on October 29, but there was no complacency about them when they met Upper Canada as there had been in the season’s final game the year before. A huge

crowd was on hand for the game, played in cold, clear weather with a light cross-wind. If anything, Ridley were too tense and trying too fiercely; they lost much yardage during the first half owing to numerous offside penalties. The game was clean and hard-fought from the moment U.C.C. kicked off, and Ridley did not lead at any time. Ridley had no excuses and offered none; the best team had won.

Perhaps in consolation for the failure to seize an historic opportunity to place a notable succession of football championships on the L.B.F. record book, the sports reporter compiled a record of Little Big Four championships won by all schools since the great athletic rivalry had begun between the Little Big Four schools. It made satisfying reading for all Ridleians, young and old. Unhappily, it did not appear until Easter so could not appease the Old Boys during the winter.

LITTLE BIG FOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS (INCLUDING TIES) TO 1932
(since the origin of the four-school series)

Trinity College School	5
Upper Canada College	7
St. Andrew's College	9
Ridley College	12

SCHOOL GAMES PLAYED BY RIDLEY TO 1932

<i>Against</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Ridley Won</i>	<i>Ridley Lost</i>	<i>Tied</i>
U.C.C.	32	19	13	0
T.C.S.	32	26	6	0
St. Andrew's	31	13	15	3
Totals	95	58	34	3

The forward pass had not been adopted by the Little Big Four, but senior Canadian football had been using it now for two seasons. Ridley had experimented with it, and it was the general feeling in 1932 that the sometimes spectacular ground-gaining and scoring play would soon be in full use. There was no doubt it opened up play by spreading the defence. The Americans had introduced the forward pass nearly twenty years earlier for this reason; it helped to get away from the monotony of "two bucks and a kick".

The current argument in Canadian rugby was whether or not unlimited interference would also be adopted to make the forward pass fully effective. If so, it meant changing the whole technique of Canadian rugby, so there was strong opposition. But because the university teams had adopted it Ridley's expectation in 1932 was that the forward pass at least would soon be adopted by the Little Big Four, which it was.



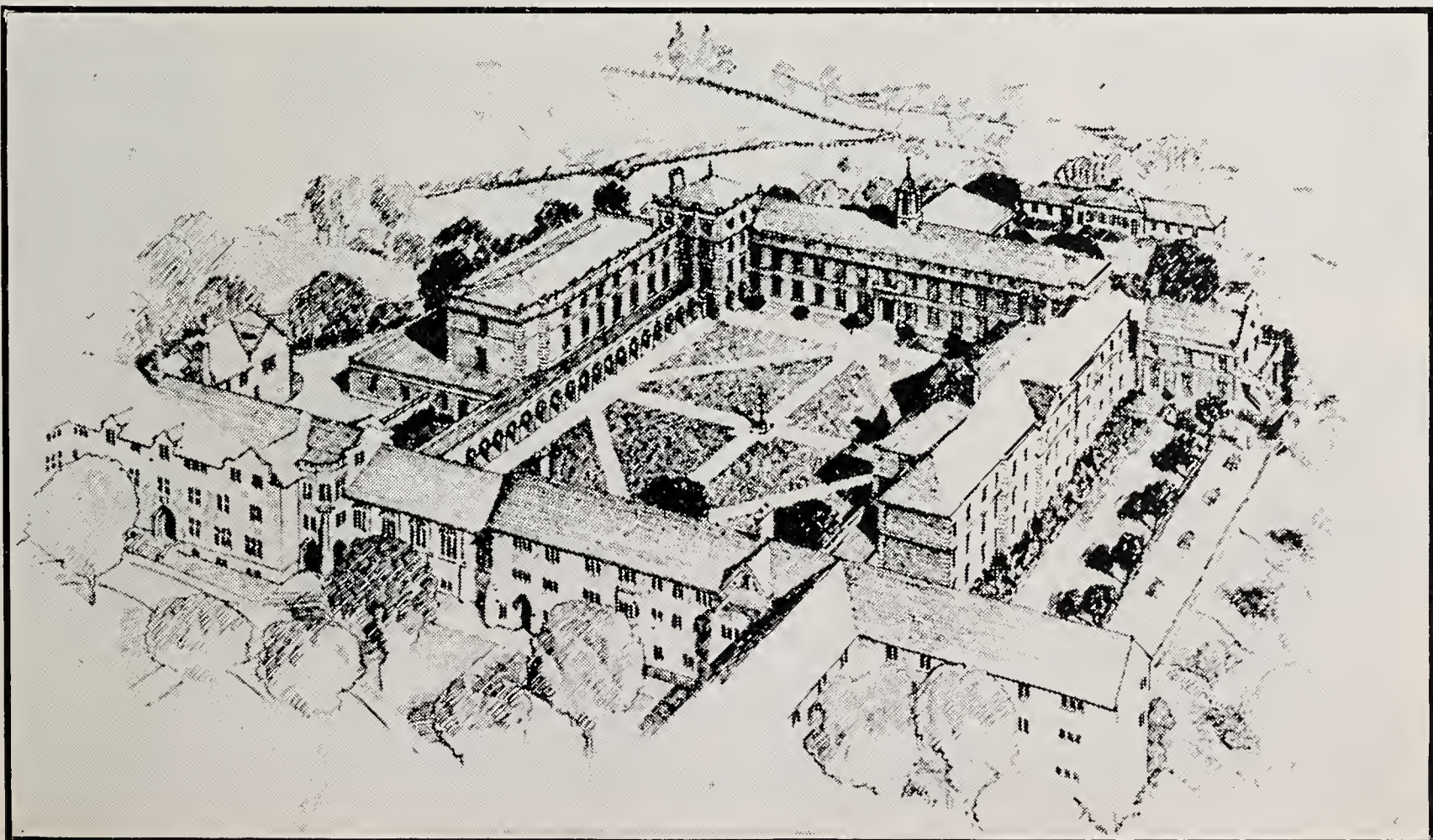
THE DEPRESSION DORMITORY: MERRITT HOUSE
Built in 1931; opened in 1932

*Ridley
Defies the
Depression*

The front
door



THE "RIDLEY QUADRANGLE"
— A brave dream that died —





Cadet Corps Scenes



Centre:
Visit of His Excellency,
Baron Tweedsmuir.



Top left:
S. K. Fowler ('01-'07)
Cadet Captain of Ridley
First Cadet Corps (1907
and Cadet Capt.
J. M. Harris (1934).

Below:
Cadet Sunday, 1936.



The Cross Country 1934

Up the Hog's Back (left)



Winners: *Seniors*, F. W. H. Watlington, ma; *Intermediates*, J. E. Bythell; *Juniors*, E. G. Gibbons;
Lower School, D. G. McClelland, who won over 63 boys; all finished.

A close watch had been taken on the diet of the footballers during recent seasons; this was engendered by fear that J. C. McNett, star lineman, might be tempted to eat too many prunes. He held a proud title – the School Prune Championship with a record at one sitting of 96. The cricketers decided they should also keep a close eye on the habits of the inhabitants of Merritt House. They had formed a baseball team and had approached School House to produce a nine; they did and lost to Merritt House by one run, a development which the Head viewed with unconcealed disapproval.

In turn, the chess players were looking with a jaundiced eye on Yo-Yo. Drummond-Hay mi was accused of introducing the Yo-Yo to Ridley and of infecting nearly everyone in Lower School, even husky young footballers and some masters. Yo-Yo was even disturbing the chess players and diluting their competition. (“The example and the teaching of Messrs. Dixon, O’Neil and Duxbury proved invaluable, and many were the clever tricks learned from watching the semi-elliptic disc chase up and down their educated bootlaces.”)

Other activities and interests of these years were referred to by cryptic notes in the term diaries:

- All detentions cancelled (who were the lucky ones with about three hours?)
- Pro goes trapper and Jimmy Skunk goes on the rampage.
- Mr. Duxbury goes skating by his lonesome in the morning, and attracts Champlain’s attention.
- Miss Crawford makes a sensational run and Mr. Morris loses his watch.
- Nowers and Tyng had to exert authority to maintain order in the library.
- Mr. Brock’s basement tuck shop is doing so well *Acta* considers asking him for an “ad”.

Ridley’s new house had provided another opportunity for the Women’s Guild, with branches now in St. Catharines, London, Winnipeg, Hamilton and Toronto, to do things for the School. They furnished the reception and dressing rooms of Merritt House and also donated its library furniture and considerable reading matter. They had given themselves still another assignment in this period of reduced attendance; they were all ardent recruiters of new Ridley students.

Acta’s persistent effort to provide material with a change of subject-matter bore fruit with an entirely new type of article after repeated urging of Keith Crombie (’10-’17) to write on the advertising business. It was still only vaguely understood, with a lot of misconceptions held about it, some of them unflattering. Old Boy Keith Crombie had been advertising manager for *The Goblin* while at Varsity and after; and was now a successful advertising man. His comprehensive article (Christmas, 1931) not only dispelled some of the

misunderstandings and even suspicions of a business function of growing importance, but his views must have been read with keen interest by those seniors who were still uncertain about a career. He combined these characteristics as essential to success: (1) a sales instinct; (2) a capacity for creating new themes and ideas; (3) ordinary horse-sense; and (4) literary or artistic ability or both.

Acta promised to try and follow with similar articles by Old Boys to explain their own particular *métier* or occupation, but this was a long time developing and Keith Crombie's *Notes on Advertising* remained an unusual type of contribution. Some years later he headed his own thriving advertising agency.

The two final and always vastly enjoyed functions of each Ridley calendar year occurred in November and December, one at Ridley and one at Toronto. These were, of course, Ridleys' rugged annual Cross-Country Run, followed (after a period of recuperation) by a boisterous dinner, and the Old Boys' annual reunion in Toronto. One dinner served to rekindle the spirit of the School, and the other the loyalty and affection of the Old Ridleians. The fascinating element which marked both events was that no one ever seemed to grow weary of their repetition.

As usual the going was heavy for the 1931 run, but Mr. Cockburn's race-plan included stern warnings to the markers along the course to see to it that no one got lost this time. (The Junior leader promptly took a wrong turn – "They always do!") The November rain had stopped, but the wind was so raw that most of the boys lined up – Juniors, first; then the Intermediates, with the Seniors last to go – dressed in old grey flannels, toques and their oldest orange-and-black sweaters.

The Juniors as usual went through the arch with great dash, only to be slowed by the mud within half a mile to a laborious panting jog. Robinson III, leading the Juniors, temporarily lost them all, despite the precautions, but he was in front, so the rest ran just as far; he stayed in front and won. The only other mishap was at the water-jump which took a heavy toll; Wright lost his shoe and was still wading and searching the bottom of the creek for it when the rest were home.

The 1932 run was little changed, but November 14 was clear and warmer than the year before. The usual stampede to be first through the arch was again the mistake of boys of all ages; blithely careless of the long, rugged road ahead, that sprint, to impress the spectators, forced them to a plodding jog by the time they reached the "hill". This was the heartbreaker before they went through the bush and faced the water-jump. The bush was easier this year; the Parks Commission had begun to clear out its underbrush. And then the gallopers, joggers, stumblers and walkers had a wonderful surprise. Glee-ful masters and a crowd of St. Catharines friends, all grinning in anticipation,

had congregated as usual at the water-jump to see the big splash. But the first boy only splashed to his ankles. They could wade it! There was no water-jump!

The Seniors, who started last, always overtook the labouring Intermediates and dogged Juniors about here and did so again. They all faced the last fierce hill in a weary line that stretched Indian file for nearly a mile, with the age-groups well mixed up and only the real "stayers" still able to jog. The rest would walk, then canter or lope for a stride or two. But the last thirty yards, with the arch in sight, always saw the same gallant attempt to finish in style – running hard in twos or threes, if only achieving a sort of exhausted gallop. The most exhilarating finish in years took place in 1932 – a neck-and-neck rush by two boys over the last ten yards, Lindsay vs. Lindsay. The cheering spectators swore it was a dead-heat – *for tenth place*.

The Lower School were still holding their own cross-country run on their own day and course. They offered an object lesson to all three age-groups of the Upper School, in both the proportion of participants and extent of a grim determination to finish. Only one Lower School boy failed to start – and all finished. They had tribe prizes now; on a basis of the first twenty braves to finish in each tribe, the *Mohawks* won with 115 points; the *Algonquins* with 68 points were second.

CROSS-COUNTRY WINNERS — 1931-2

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Lower School</i>
1931	Sellers ma	Buck	Robinson III	Salter
1932	Buck	Snyder	Porter	Ashburner

The Old Boy's dinner in Toronto in the still comparatively new Royal York Hotel on December 3, 1932 took on a strong military and Ridley Cadet Corps flavour because General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D., D.C.L., former commander of the Canadian Corps and now chancellor of McGill, was the guest speaker. Major R. M. Harcourt presided and expressed the regret of the Old Boys that Dr. Miller was missing through illness. He introduced the General. Nearly every speaker to follow had either served under Sir Arthur or in the Cadet Corps. Old Boys Major S. C. Norsworthy, Colonel D. H. C. Mason and Major F. H. Marani were particularly warm in their thanks for the glowing compliments paid by Sir Arthur to Ridley. He said Ridley occupied a high place in the history of Canadian education. He added:

Education is the bedrock of all advancement, and one of the greatest mistakes that a country can make is to economize with regard to its schools. A complete reorganization of mankind from the point of view of the basic ideas of civilization is now essential. Ideas govern the world and a new course must be charted.

Undisciplined thinking is useless, and the teacher is the hope of the coming generation. In the era of reconstruction with which the world is faced today, the schools are the basis of the recovery of the spirit of good will which the world needs so much.

Ridley has done much in this regard, and the thanks of the country are due her for it.

The report to the Old Boys' dinner on the activities of Ridleians during the year revealed some notable developments: Dr. Cody and Dr. D. Bruce Macdonald were now respectively president and chairman of the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto. Clarke Bell had scored a century against the mighty Australian cricketers, and Sandy Somerville had won the Amateur Golf Championship of the United States.

Few accounts of an Old Boys' dinner could improve on the following (which could refer to almost any Old Boys' dinner in any year):

It is called a dinner. All Old Boys' reunions are called dinners unless they are luncheons. At a luncheon the food is important because everyone has to eat before returning to work. But at a dinner – at any rate, an Old Boys' dinner – food does not mean much. When, on the following morning, some idea-about-a-new-dish-hunting-female, perhaps a wife, says: "And what did you have to eat?" you give the old bean a shake or two and find that, apparently, you ate nothing.

Then, like an inspiration from above, come remembrances: "Well, we had olives and er – celery, and, yes, there was soup because Old Joe fell – I mean er – knocked his over, and – er, oh of course there was coffee and cigars at the end."

Then, in order to explain yourself properly, you search out a crumpled menu from a pocket of the dinner jacket to discover that, in theory at least, you feasted on caviar, English partridge, Bomlie Montmorencies (eh?) and, most mysterious of all, Mignardisis. Just when these exotic foods must have appeared is not clear.

. . . you had walked right into the arms of Old Pete, whom you hadn't seen for ten years. Old Pete introduced this man Old Joe – "You remember Old Joe, he was in the VIth when you were in the IIIrd." – Certainly I remember Old Joe, but not as Old Joe, as Smith I, a very superior VIth former, quite Olympian in fact. But Old Pete and Old Joe and yourself commence a trilogy based on the theme "D'ya remember when?"

You remember saying "D'ya remember when?" to countless old boys and old birds and old lads . . . "Well, well, well, if it isn't Old George . . ."

Then you go on and tackle the celery and the olives. But that is about as far as you get, for Old Joe and Old Mac and Old Pete are all singing as the piano starts, *We're Champions again!* . . . "Pardon me, sir, are you finished with your partridge?"

Then you and Old George go to see who is up at the far end of the room. You join a very harmonic rendering of "*Good-bye, U.C.C., Good-bye*", after which the Chairman rises and says, "Gentlemen, the King!"

At this, someone – Gosh, it's Old Gus – yells "Hurrah for Mackenzie King" and someone cries, "Humbug!" Then Fisher sings a very dawn-coming-up-like-thundery rendering of *Mandalay* . . . then two cheerful souls give their famous rendering of *The Bootlegger's Daughter*. The waiter offers you a cigar . . .

Dr. Cody speaks with affectionate remembrance of Dr. Miller and Mr. Williams, and said he joined with the Chairman in regretting the latter's absence . . . Mr. Griffith spoke of all that he owed to Dr. Miller . . . Mr. Norsworthy called on Dr. Miller, who said his life had reached the stage of recollection . . . Mr. Norsworthy then called on Ferdie Marani, Wilf Heighington, Dick Harcourt, Henry Gooderham . . .

Everybody sang *Auld Lang Syne*, after which you and Old Joe and Old Mac and Old Pete climbed into a taxi with Old Sam and Old Gus . . . and you sat around playing "D'ya remember" far into the night . . .

What makes an Old Boy go back to his reunions? Some can look back along a line of reunion dinners that dwindles far into distant years, to a dim first one when he was very young, but still a proud Old Boy. It can only be that the spirit of Ridley has stayed alive within him, deeply imbedded, but demanding at least a recurrent ransacking at intervals of the pigeon-holes of his Ridley recollections. Once a year was about right, and then came the urge again for a brief reincarnation of his days at school – those full, exciting days when, all-unknowing, he was mentally moulded, shaped and armed for manhood. There was always a surprise for Old Jack or Old Bill to make each reunion personally memorable.

Ridley Defies Economic Fear

“With the passing of the years, Ridley had grown more and more secure, with more and more Canadian families becoming Ridley families, as sons followed fathers through the gates, and then sons following sons, in a traditional, ever-lengthening procession.”

AS MR. H. C. GRIFFITH of the Upper School had taken over direction of Ridley as a whole, with the broadening responsibilities of his new principalship beginning as school had reopened for the autumn term in September, 1932, another famous Old Ridleian, A. W. Taylor, was the recently elected chairman of the local Board of Governors, replacing Mr. Justice Courtney Kingstone, now living in Toronto. This meant that an historic arrangement for administration had been instituted which would not likely recur; two Ridley Originals, Ab Taylor and Harry Griffith, who had been among the first forty-eight boys to attend Ridley's initial school term forty-three years before, were the guardians of the School and its operations. It would not recur because no others of the now rapidly diminishing band of Ridley Originals of '89 were in a position to follow either Ab or Harry in their posts.

The local Board's prime responsibility was always the School's financial needs, though Mr. Taylor had been on watch over the morale and spirit – and even the food – of Ridley ever since he had left as a student. The great responsibility for all phases of Ridley's operations and well-being rested on Mr. Griffith, including not only the academic standards and the attitude of the boys toward their school, but also the repute of Ridley in the realm of education and the impression of Ridley held by the public.

Mr. Griffith rose to the challenge in the way that was confidently expected by all who knew him. As Principal of the Upper School since 1921, he had shared responsibilities with Mr. Williams, if his were probably weightier. He had been the foremost personality of Ridley even in the Twenties and now, as Principal of the whole School, he began at once to reach the stature he would

achieve by the end of the Thirties, that of one of the outstanding leaders of Ontario's independent schools, or of Canadian education itself for that matter. The stress of the Twenties and its demands had perhaps added strength to his character, which was always strong, just as he was always decisive, always seemed to know his target and how to reach it. But now he seemed to develop still further as he took over full, independent responsibility for the School.

"He was a fighter, a doer, and an inspirational leader," declared a Ridley athlete of the later Twenties. "He had faith and courage, and to me personally he was a friend to whom I could turn for guidance and advice at any time."

Ridley's athletes, especially those of the first football and cricket teams, knew Harry Griffith much better than they did other masters. Many athletes of the other three schools of the Little Big Four also knew him well, and respected him. Ridley's football and cricket colours, who experienced Harry Griffith's inspirational coaching, including the football chalk-talks he would give two nights a week in the autumn, naturally came to know Harry Griffith better than they would a master who did not have the common interest of sport and its close association with them. They knew him better than boys who were not top footballers or cricketers would know any of their masters. The latter were of course greatly in the majority; they did not carry away such intimate knowledge of him. If you wish to hear all about Harry Griffith ask an ex-Ridley footballer.

His interest in coaching had another value; it kept him close to the boys, prevented his retirement into the remoteness of principalship.

All boys at Ridley at this time, athletes of the first rugby and cricket teams or not, had great respect for him. They appreciated all that he meant to Ridley, and was now doing for the School. Later, they would remember his French classes, how he would talk almost as much about life and life's problems as he did about the French language. They would recall the fascinating interest he inserted into his classes on ethics, or his sermons in the chapel, which the boys enjoyed far more than they did the talks of visiting clerics. They would hear an organ and remember him; he would often play the organ after supper while waiting for the evening service to begin.

"The profound dedication that 'Griff' had for the boys at Ridley was his whole life," said another Old Boy, whose sons are following him to Ridley. "The example he set for us, the discipline and the fair play on the fields. gentleness and manliness were drilled into us from the very first day we set foot on the campus. His guidance and the examples he set for us have helped each and every one of us to mould our lives and conduct our affairs in the spirit of Ridley."

The boys of Ridley probably knew, or sensed that the Governors had the same confidence in Mr. Griffith, if for other reasons. His vision and energy in the direction of Ridley included a persuasive eloquence which could give

much of his own faith in the rightness of Ridley's educational philosophy to others. He had unique ability to convince men of both the value of Ridley to the nation and of the right kind of education for a boy. Others gave the money which had developed physical Ridley in the Twenties, and would keep on doing so into the Fifties, but there was no doubt this was often done because Harry Griffith had infected donors with his own enthusiasm and convictions.

Such was the man who now held Ridley's destiny largely in his hands. They were safe, strong hands, which was fortunate because Ridley had economic fear and adversity still to defy and overcome. In the immediate hazardous years, the Board would often appreciate the inspiration of Mr. Griffith's supreme confidence.

If there was an outward show of typical Riddleian optimism and confidence by him in the autumn of 1932, it belied the serious situation the Governors and the Principal had on their hands. Principal Griffith had actually taken over direction of the entire school at the very moment when a more precarious situation was faced by Ridley than at any time since her uncertain first years. Worse, there was no assurance of an economic upturn in the foreseeable future. Canada's industrial and trade situation was desperate, with the banking chaos in the United States and an economic blight similar to her own on all her old markets to hold back even a start toward Canadian recovery. No one knew when improvement might come, and Ridley could not logically expect restoration of her old security and prosperity until it did come. No one could more than hazard a guess on the probable duration of the Depression.

To accompany the bleakness of Ridley's outlook for the Principal and the Governors was that embarrassing new dormitory. They needed less room, not more. No one criticized the building's original inspiration; everyone had been seeing the future through a rose-hued crystal ball in early 1929. Life would have been easier if more of their friendly critics had remembered this and if more had refrained from speaking as if they were mentally pointing an accusing finger toward the mistake in expanding when everybody else, and everything else, was contracting. It was bad enough to be forced to study the table which disclosed the plummeting fall in Ridley's student attendance.

There was neither consolation nor a source for hope and confidence in the knowledge that other independent schools were in the same, or a worse plight, and that progress in education had come to a dead stop throughout Canada.

The upturn was coming for Ridley long, long before it would come for Canada, but none knew it until just before it took place. A tribute is owing to the good judgment and courage of Principal Griffith and the Governors that they strove to maintain an air of normal Riddleian confidence throughout that worried winter of 1932-3. They appeared to have sublime faith in Ridley and in Canada. They were cautious but not pessimistic, disclosing none of the qualms which were probably justified. They gave no hint of panic.

This attitude was infectious. Old Ridleians recall the feeling that their endangered school seemed to possess some mysterious reason of its own to consider itself immune to the economic fear which was everywhere and which was deepening the Depression, especially in the United States. Canadians knew that their own recovery would depend considerably on improved conditions below the border, but there was no encouragement there. President Roosevelt would take the oath of office on March 4, 1933, but his National Recovery Act was to receive a mixed greeting including political derision. He would eventually achieve much but it would require time.

A fine effort was achieved by the Principal and Mr. Taylor in inspiring the Old Boys with confidence at the annual meeting in Toronto in December, 1932. They were all challenged to become ardent recruiters.

Most of them were clearly dubious and worried. Mr. Taylor told them the deficit of only \$16,000 of last year had been achieved by writing off an annual depreciation of \$47,000. Mr. Griffith reported that the overdraft at the bank was now \$65,000, which caused most of the Old Boys to swallow hard. Those who were in business knew the seriousness of the economic times at first hand; some of them had suffered personally and were nervous and disheartened. Mr. Griffith sought to infect them with his personal confidence by stating: "That overdraft is negligible considering the importance of possessing a fine building worth \$170,000, such as Merritt House." But he knew it could only be justified by finding new boys. The Dean's House was entirely empty; the Lower School's empty beds were painful to contemplate.

That December meeting proved to be highly important. It sparked serious action. The Old Boys were inspired to get busy at once as recruiters. A sense of urgency was also inserted into plans for the second annual Old Boys' Week-end in the coming June. Special emergency meetings were scheduled. Dinners were also planned – and held – in Winnipeg (January) and in Montreal (March), to urge serious recruiting by Old Boys in those areas. These three meetings of Old Boys in the winter and early spring were frankly inspirational rallies to launch recruiting campaigns.

The Old Boys' Week-end at St. Catharines in June was not only a great success, nostalgically, inspirationally and every other way; it sent the Old Boys home determined afresh to search for new boys seriously during July and August.

At Winnipeg the recruiting speakers were H. D. Gooderham ('95-'02), Gurney Evans ('21-'23), Professor W. D. Evans, a former master now with the University of Manitoba, and Alex Stringer ('18-'24). At Montreal interest in recruiting new boys for Ridley was spurred by Major S. C. Norsworthy and Mr. Griffith, who went to Montreal to help.

It worked, or something did. When Ridley reopened for another autumn term (September, 1933) there was justification in full measure for Ridleian confidence. It was a spectacular endorsement, because it meant so much and

was unexpected. The Lower School was greeted by so many new boys that for these times the School seemed to be engulfed. Ridley's outlook was wonderfully transformed overnight. This Lower School report tells what happened:

The prevailing note when the Lower School opened in September was new boys.

Everywhere!

Wandering through the building, asking for bath tickets, exploring the dormitories, losing their way, getting under one's feet; they seemed to fill the building.

Mustering 27, they completely outnumbered the veterans with 21, to bring the complement to 48, an increase of 20 over the total roll in September, 1932.

The great inspiration was, of course, in the transformation to twenty-seven from only three lonely new boys the September before, each one a son of an Old Boy or there would have been none.

It is doubtful if twenty-seven boys ever meant so much to a school; for Ridley they spelled sudden, wonderful salvation. *The upturn had come!*

If the new boys were not full justification for the confidence of the Governors, they at least revealed there was no just cause for pessimism. It seemed both safe and sensible to go on defying the prevailing economic fear. Even if the number of new boys who had appeared in September was not maintained next year, and the next, it was now quite apparent that Ridley would weather the Depression in good shape and would not suffer a severe restriction in income from fees. Even the over-cautious Ridleian pessimists felt reassured. (*Postscript: In 1934, there were twenty-five new boys to accommodate in the Lower School.*)

There was reassurance in another factor. The intake of twenty-seven new boys in 1933 had revealed that the character of Ridley as a family-school would go on and on. Among the new boys were eight sons of Old Boys and ten pairs of brothers, including one set of twins. Several of them were named by a young Lower School rhymster:

*Picture Joe Clarke without his big grin,
Picture a Rounthwaite who wasn't a twin,
Picture F. Hamilton actually thin –
A picture no artist would paint.*

*Picture Pat Boswell not cutting wild capers,
Picture young Hague without funny papers,
Picture the Grease Club without Smelly Vapours –
A picture no artist should paint.*

*Picture our Franklin without something messed,
Picture John Jarvis not for rubbers in quest,
Picture La Shelle complete with his vest –
A picture no artist could paint.*

*Picture our Crosby in bulk even vaster,
Picture Mac Waind just pulling one faster,
Picture the School without one single master –
A picture no artist dare paint.*

Ridley's turn to recovery thus came far sooner than Canadian trade and industry knew it. Further, it was permanent and not just a one-year miracle confined to 1933. A gain in students now occurred each year until 1939, when the total attendance in both schools reached a safe and profitable 275. That was better than 1930 if still below the peak of 1929.

The reason for Ridley's quick recovery must be at least partly traceable to the sensible Canadian attitude toward education. After the first shock of the economic crash in 1929, withdrawals of boys were disturbingly frequent but only until the end of 1930. When the Depression was at its worst from 1931 to 1932, only one or two boys were withdrawn for economic reasons. This had deep significance. It clearly indicated that Canadians considered a son's education should not be the first expense eliminated but one of the last. Family purse-strings could be drawn tight for other things. The number of Ridley families who made great sacrifices to keep their sons at Ridley during the Great Depression is not known, but the very condition of things says there were many.

It has been said that Canadian boys were kept at school during the Depression because there was no work anyway, so they might as well have an education, but this is a cynical view; it is refuted by the fact that the great majority remained at school after times improved, and also by the outstanding professional men produced by the universities during the late years of the Depression.

The sublime confidence of Ridley's governors was based, of course, on a far more solid factor than a surprisingly large influx of new boys in any one year. Long ago – in Ridley's first year – the Rev. Mr. Miller had been comforted to realize that the future of the School rested almost solely on the attitudes of her boys – not on the view taken by the universities and education generally; not on the eminence and financial stability of her governors; not on the quality of her staff; not on the credit extended by the banks or even on the public impression of Ridley. Each of these factors was important, of course, but in the end the destiny of Ridley rested on her boys and the impression of their school which they projected. It could be either disparaging or one of fierce

loyalty and affection. The boys themselves were the disciples who would maintain high repute or destroy it. No modern promotional campaign or slogan could begin to equal their unconscious persuasive power, for good or for ill. This was why Ridley's future had always been secure and why it still is.

It was a particularly wonderful comfort in these dark days of depression in Canada and throughout the world that the enthusiasm of the boys of Ridley for their school, and the unshakable loyalty and devotion of her ever-growing body of Old Boys, were together the insurance of security.

With the passing of the years Ridley had grown more and more secure, with more and more Canadian families becoming Ridley families, as sons followed fathers through the gates, and then sons following sons, in a traditional, ever-lengthening procession. Such a school could not fail. Implied was a respect for, and confidence in, Ridley which no oral or printed assurance could ever match. What stronger testimonial could there be than the act of a father in sending his son to his old school? He does not do so for sentiment alone.

The School's strong spirit was clearly evident in the way the boys became engrossed in activities in the winter months of 1933, while the country itself was still near the bottom of the pit of Depression. You could hear the faith and confidence of the boys in their school echoing amid the strident din of gym or rink. You could hear it in the wondrous discordancies of the Lower School's boys, practising for their new musical inspiration, a Toy Orchestra – the blare of kazoos, the tootle of flutes, the roll and crash of the traps, the jangle of cymbals and ringing of bells.

Dr. S. G. Bett, school organist and choirmaster, had only recently sat at the University of Toronto for the degree of Doctor of Music, and the entire school was congratulating him on his success; he had been the only aspirant sitting for the examinations in that year who had been granted the coveted degree. So there was some astonishment that their eminent Doctor of Music would now help foster such a plebeian innovation as a Toy Orchestra – "*Kazoos, of all things!*" The boys soon demonstrated at a unique concert that if what they were producing was not art it was still music, at least it was rhythmic. Smart was first flautist; Watson, Douglas and Simmonds played *Old Black Joe* and *One More Ribber* on their kazoos; Wright was on the cymbals and bells, with Rigby mi on the drums. The entire Toy Orchestra then played *Men of Harlech* and *Three Blind Mice*. Even the disapproving esthetics had to admit that it was . . . well, probably . . . musical, and that anything in an artistic sense had compensation in sheer entertainment. It was also brave music.

The following testifies that Ridley's poets were also brave when economic adversity was at its worst:

FROM SENECA
(Latin reader, P. 96)

*Riches do not make a king
Nor robes with Tyrian purple bright,
Nor golden portals glittering.
Nay, he is King who puts to flight
The fears and ills of knavish breasts;
Who by ambition unrestrained
Is never moved nor even rests
On fickle laurels lightly gained
From headstrong mobs. Secure on high
He sees the whole world at his feet
And goes with willing steps to meet
His fate; nor grieves to die.*

– C.M.S. in *Acta*, 1932.

It may seem incongruous to move from such profound thoughts to the plebeian subject of food, but it is not to a boy; the hunger-pangs of a boy's stomach are important for they are always with him. That there was no deterioration in the quality of Ridley's meals during the Great Depression was emphatically illustrated on that great opening day in September, 1933, when young Ben Cronyn was a part of the wonderful invasion of the Lower School by twenty-seven new boys. He was not going to be lonely; he had a brother and a cousin already there and another cousin arrived with him. But his mother and father waited until he had his supper before saying good-bye. As he emerged from the dining room, his mother who (fortunately) had a delightful sense of humour, asked if he had enjoyed his supper.

"Enjoyed it?" exclaimed Ben enthusiastically. "Why, the food's better than anything we get at home!" He wondered why his mother looked a bit startled and his father laughed so hard.

The Lower School did not yet know it had just taken unto itself a number of youngsters, soon to be famous as the Muscle-binders, an irrepressible group led by Pat Boswell, Ben's cousin, and Ben did not yet himself realize that the dining room would be the scene of a lot of trouble for him. It started almost at once. He whispered to the boy beside him that the pudding smelled funny. The boy went forward to see and – whoosh! – his face was pushed into the juicy dessert. (Four on each for Ben.) A little later he became fascinated with the attempt to flip a pat of butter to the ceiling and make it stick. If it didn't, it could fall on an unsuspecting boy's head which could be funnier. (It wasn't; it cost six on each.)

On their first night in their assigned dormitory a Pat Boswell-Mr. Brockwell

war was declared. Mr. Brockwell pounced out of nowhere and caught them talking after *Lights Out*. (Detention for the whole dormitory!) Next day, an indignant nine-year-old Pat Boswell confronted Mr. Brockwell in the hall and declared war: "We have a name for you, Mr. Brockwell; it's Pussyfoot!" (Six on each for Pat.) There was no resentment; when Mr. Brockwell later made a motion picture, *The New Boy*, he had Pat play the star role. But war was still gleefully carried on by the Muscle-binders.

Mr. Ted Brown had been settled for less than a year as the new Head of the Lower School when he was involved in it. (They called him "Hick", because he came from Western Canada.) The members of the Muscle-binders included Tony Mason, Murray Snively, John Gardner, John Stevens, Bob Schmon, Don Chassels, Joe Morrison, John Cox, Harold Circuit, Guy and Roger Nicosia, Neville Geary, Ben Cronyn and, of course, the lively and popular Pat Boswell. Most of them were in the dormitory which was connected to the second floor of Mr. Brown's house. One night Pat set a trap for prowling masters in the night; he had all the boys arrange their tuck (junk) boxes, kept at the ends of their beds, so that they protruded well into the walkway between the beds. He waited until 2.00 a.m., then crept up to the top floor, carrying a large (2 ft. x 2 ft. x 2 ft.) metal trash container. He dropped it down the stairwell to the basement – then raced for his bed. It was wonderful; it hit with a stupendous crash. The whole Lower School was shocked awake. (White-haired Matron Crawford told Mrs. Hamilton next day that it had sounded like the end of the world.)

Pat had intended to catch Mr. Glassco, instead he caught Hick, for first to rush headlong into the dark, silent dormitory was Mr. Brown. He barked his shin on one tuck box, yelped, stumbled over another, swore, banged into still another and yelled in anguished rage for the lights. ("We couldn't see it; we could only hear him banging around in the dark. If we only hadn't giggled. . . .") Mr. Brown could not be sure which boy in which dorm tossed the trash-container down the stairwell, but those tuck boxes, arranged like a nest of tank traps, were highly suspicious. They pointed at least to this dormitory, so all suffered detention, on general principles.

There was no resentment from Mr. Brown either. He was the one who later christened them the Muscle-binders, as a sort of tribute to their success in sport. He understood boys and knew that their high spirits caused them to revolt when bored, like the time Tony Mason, Murray Snively, John Gardner and Pat Boswell were all confined to the sickroom with measles and very, very bored. They locked themselves in, then told the nurse through the keyhole that they were on a hunger strike. It only lasted a day, but it was an exciting one; they had alternate cajoling discussions and dire threats from Mr. Brown, Mr. Meredith Glassco, Dr. Bett, Mr. John Guest and Mr. Gwyn Morris, in turn and *en masse*.

The boys had most of their masters tagged by a characteristic: Gwyn Morris and Dr. Bett wielded the hardest strap in the School; Meredith Glassco, "a terrific piano player", had the lightest swish; John Guest held the speed record for cleaning a blackboard; Mr. Brown was always whistling to himself. If their masters were all "goats and foils" for the boys' mischief, they still won the respect of every boy to pass through the Lower School.

A TREMENDOUS number of boys wanted to play hockey in the winter of 1933; a dormitory league could have been formed if there had been enough ice, but there was so little frost for long stretches that each time a game was tried the ice would be too soft. It had become a popular conversational gambit to declare the world was getting warmer, that the times "ban't what they uster be", and this winter seemed like confirmation. Their hockey rivals in the Niagara Peninsula were also without ice because none as yet had artificial ice, so Ridley's Firsts only managed a schedule of eight games, six at home, one at Lake Lodge, Grimsby, and one (loss) against St. Andrew's in Varsity Arena. Their second team faithfully, hopefully practised and practised but could only arrange one outside game. But at least the School team's record was fairly good: won 4 games; tied 2 and lost 2. Ralph Ripley was hockey captain. (*Post-script*: "There was an echo from overseas of Ridley hockey that spring. The august London *Times* reported an ice-hockey game between Oxford and Cambridge. The captains of both teams were Old Ridleians: Nipper (J. E.) Coyne ('24-'25) for Oxford and R. T. L. Rogers ('17-'27) for Cambridge. A. S. Tanner max ('30-'32) also played, as centre for Cambridge. Another three Ridleians were in the two British universities.

Then, as if influenced by the current good luck of Ridley, the weather in 1934 gave them an old-time winter, with zero temperatures lasting for days. Even the mighty Niagara succumbed to the frost; its falls had become a subterranean stream beneath the mammoth ice structure over the upper river. The old canal froze solid despite its current. Icy blasts whooped across the campus to make them recall that the centre of St. Catharines' high-level bridge could be the coldest spot in Canada south of the Arctic Circle; colder even than the corner of Portage and Main in Winnipeg. Pro Coburn was happy; he made ice in the rink for uninterrupted weeks for the skaters and hockey players.

There was also skiing and tobogganing again on the banks of The Twelve and even farther afield, at Jordan or Lookout Point at Fonthill.

The School hockey team rose to the opportunity and in thirteen games between January 13 and March 10 won nine and lost four. They had won four straight before encountering Billy and Clarke Bell and Phil Seagram playing with the Toronto Cricket Club, and lost 9-5. They also lost 4-3 against

Upper Canada, and then Ridley had the exhilarating experience of playing in Maple Leaf Gardens for the first time – against Upper Canada again.

R. S. Hart ma was hockey captain, and it was his driving spirit which banished Ridley pessimism because of the earlier U.C.C. defeat and their awe about the magnificent surroundings, with its unfamiliar, large ice surface. A. K. Schryer, Ridley's centre, helped confidence at the start by banging in his own rebound for the first score of the game in the opening minute of play. For Ridley, fifty-nine minutes of tension followed. Ross, the U.C.C. captain and high scorer of the enemy, was so closely checked by tenacious Tony Cassels that Upper Canada grew demoralized. Ridley was still on the right side of a 3 to 2 score when Upper Canada threw five forwards into the fray for the last two minutes. ("Time stood still for Ridley, but leg-weary and dead-tired, the team staved-off a score.")

Had there been such a thing as a Little Big Four Hockey championship and had that game decided it, the entire school could not have been more exhilarated. It was the highlight of Ridley's winter.

This was Ridley's 1934 hockey team and its substitutes (with comments by the hockey reporter):

R. S. Hart ma – captain and defence – "The best player on the team."

Ernie Rossiter – goal – "Cool. Saved many a certain score."

V. Francis – defence – "His play improved marvellously."

A. K. Schryer – centre – "Beautiful stick handler. Could be a star."

J. H. Jamieson ma – left wing – "Clever stick-handler. Hard to stop."

J. W. Mitchell – right wing – "Poor shot, but a hornet in looking after his check."

H. P. Kelly – centre – "Much on the score sheet. Good shot."

H. Cassels – left wing – "Most improved boy on the team. His play against U.C.C. was deciding factor."

C. M. MacLachlan ma – right wing – "Cool and deliberate. Around when wanted."

W. L. Scandrett – defence – "Clever in breaking up plays."

The 1935 winter was less inspiring, but continuous frosty weather again held. In addition to the usual First, Second and Third squads, there were Form III and Form IV teams as well as much activity by Lower School teams. Six old colours from 1934 were still playing, with MacLachlan ma the captain of the School team. They won 8 and lost 4 games in 1935, including a win and loss against University of Toronto Schools.

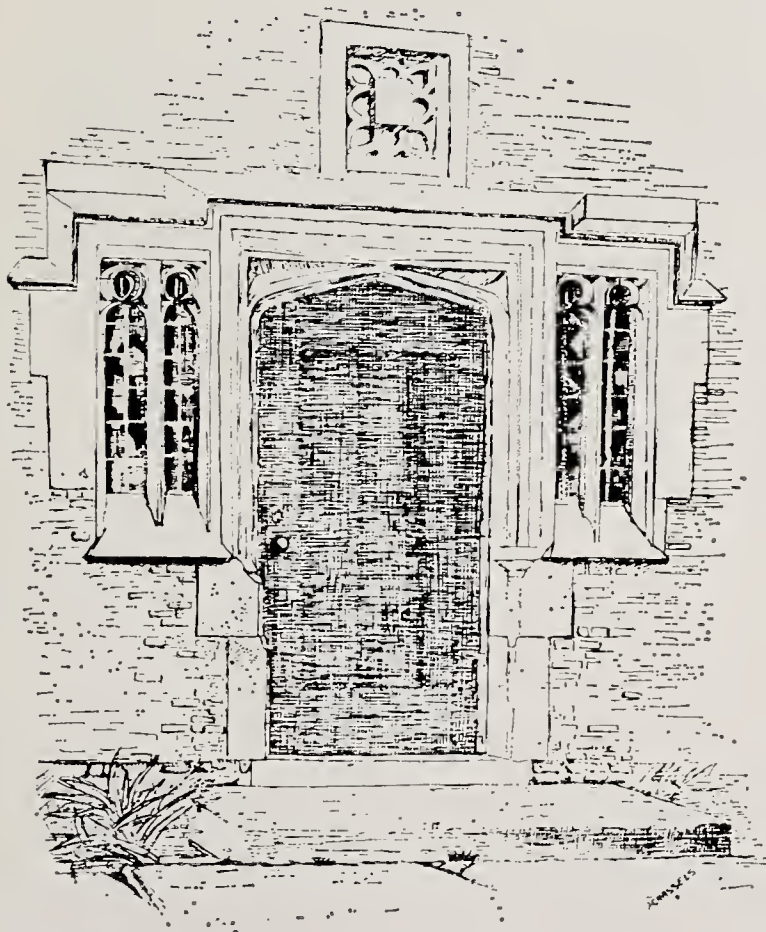
The frequent mild winters often saw first-team hockey players also on the school basketball team, which led to a rare Ridley athletic status: the 5-colour man. Colours could be won in rugby, hockey, cricket, basketball and gymnastics, but because hockey and basketball schedules clashed and practice time demanded too much, not many boys ever reached this unusual pinnacle of athletic prowess. It was achieved in this period by R. S. Hart. He

The School Hockey Team, 1936



Rear Oval (l. to r.): A. K. Schryer; G. E. Thornes; L. W. McLean; C. M. MacLachlan ma.; F. E. Wellington; R. J. G. Lucas; T. A. Witzel; L. J. Ashburner mi. *Centre*: Dr. H. C. Griffith; H. Cassels (Captain); Mr. G. M. Brock. *Front*: W. Y. Hutton, goal.

Acta Art



FRONT DOOR: GOODERHAM HOUSE
– D. R. Chassels

The Dramatic Society Presents . . .



"Leave It To Psmith"

Standing: M. C. E. H. Thomas, director; H. S. Glassco; C. F. S. Tidy; J. R. Geary; J. O. Putman; R. J. Edgar; J. A. C. Arnell; R. S. Harris; J. W. Mitchell; R. B. McClelland and Mr. Terence Cronyn, a producer. *Sitting:* W. R. Wright; D. S. Ashdown; A. C. Johnston; W. D. Foulds; S. R. Sheppard; W. B. C. Burgoyne; L. B. G. Adams and A. H. Griffith.

The Glee Club Presents . . .



The Quintessences of Quintario

Dr. Bett's parody of *H.M.S. Pinafore*.
The quintuplets: Nicholl, Ashdown mi,
Tidy mi, Gosling, Brook.



DR. S. G. BETT,
A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M.,
at the organ. He kept Ridley
a singing school.

was a cricket, basketball and hockey captain during these years, and he also won his rugby and gymnastic colours.

The Lower School also did well on the ice in this period. They had a fine hockey team in 1933, with a weird schedule of 9 games all arranged with one school—Gray Gables—the new Roman Catholic boys' school at Welland. The rivals split the first 8 games, then played off for the Father Dwyer trophy presented by the Headmaster of Gray Gables. Ridley lost, but the team enjoyed that busy winter even if they battled the one team so often they knew every move of each player.

The mild winters had given such a boom to basketball that it had threatened again recently to supplant hockey as the main winter sport and more or less did so in the "iceless winters". Even the Lower School had a basketball team in 1933, though its record was not very good: 3 games, 3 losses. They were also trying rugger in the Lower School; the team, coached by Mr. Gwyn Morris, had return matches with their new competition, Gray Gables. They won and lost.

The new school at Welland was replacing a lost competitor for the Lower School. Lake Lodge School at Grimsby became a victim of the depression in 1933 and was closed, ending a friendly rivalry of many years. Ridley's younger boys had many fine memories of Lake Lodge, of cricket and football encounters and visits that went back to the turn of the century. (No young Ridley footballer ever forgot the walnut tree on the ten-yard line at Lake Lodge.)

The staff changes between 1933 and 1936 included the arrival of a famous Ridley athlete, Billy (W. E. N.) Bell, as a master. He replaced Mr. Glassco in 1934 in the economics and business course when the latter moved to the Lower School. Mr. Bell only remained a year, and so did Mr. L. B. Gilbert, who came with him. In the summer of 1933, Capt. R. S. Cockburn married Miss Hazel Stobie, and Mr. Terry Cronyn replaced him as housemaster of School House. Mr. Cronyn was co-editor with Mr. Cockburn of *Acta* but he acted as managing editor and had been training several boys who were developing into excellent reporters.

As the colours for the cricket team of 1933 were being chosen in early May, the boys of Ridley of all ages and forms, the staff, the Old Boys and all friends of Ridley were sincerely congratulating Mr. Griffith on being distinguished by a well-earned honour. In a special convocation at the University of Toronto, the honorary degree of Doctor of Law was conferred on Ridley's principal. It was an honour which recognized the lasting contribution by H. C. Griffith to Canadian education and the nation through his years of dedicated endeavour at Ridley. Most of Dr. Griffith's life had been Ridley's, since he had been the smallest boy of the original class of '89. He had been a student for seven years, had played on both the first football and first cricket

teams and had twice won the T. R. Merritt Gold Medal for Academic Proficiency which then designated the Head Boy of the School scholastically, and he had also won Ridley's greatest of all accolades, the Blake (later Mason) Gold Medal.

It was as a teacher, of course, that his great contribution to education had been made. On graduation from Trinity College he had returned to Ridley to teach, where he had been ever since except for the period between 1907 and 1911 when he had taught French at Trinity College. He had been Senior Master of the Upper School from 1911 until he became co-principal of Ridley in 1921 on Dr. Miller's retirement, and principal from 1933 on Mr. Williams' retirement. The editor of *Acta* commented on the roles of Dr. Miller and Dr. Griffith:

It must be with feelings of contentment and of a justified life that these two gentlemen, one the first principal, the other a first boy, look back on the last 43 years, and compare the Ridley of those early days to the school of today.

So to Dr. Griffith we extend congratulations on an honour well and truly earned.

THE GLORY OF CRICKET (1933-4-5)

STILL another mythical Little Big Four Cricket Championship was won by Ridley in 1933, and if they failed to repeat in 1934, largely by the vagaries of weather, and failed again in 1935 because they met unquestionably better teams, it was accepted with good sportsmanship in the best tradition of both cricket and Ridley.

Ralph (R. C.) Ripley was cricket captain in 1933, and only one loss – to Toronto Cricket Club, where Old Ridleians were always waiting in ambush – marred an otherwise perfect Ridley cricket score-sheet on the season. Once more the cricket reporter declared Ridley's first team "will rank as one of the strongest elevens ever to represent the School", and once more the impossibility of a fair comparison under different conditions must leave the statement neither confirmed nor refuted. It was undoubtedly a fine Ridley XI.

Yet it was the Lower School's XI which stole the glory of the year, despite the School team's record of nine matches won, three drawn and one lost, including a victory-sweep over the three schools – T.C.S. (at Toronto C.C.) 243-120; St. Andrew's (at Aurora) when Ridley scored 206 for 6 against 51; Upper Canada at Ridley, when the School's 139 for 5 easily topped Upper Canada's first innings' score of 117. Even some great First XI batting – Dave Clarke's century (118 against T.C.S.), F. H. Buck's 60 against St. Andrew's and Ralph Ripley's 53 not out against Upper Canada – were overshadowed by

the spectacular bat of Don (C. D.) Muir of the Lower School. He scored Ridley's seventeenth and nineteenth centuries – one against Upper Canada Preps on June 3 and the other against Appleby III on June 14. (Dave Clarke's 118 was Ridley's eighteenth century.) Young Muir also hit 50 twice in home-and-home games against Lake Lodge, the last matches which Ridley would play against the Grimsby school.

Every young cricketer the world over has the dream of hitting a century to take to bed with him, but it is rare that a boy in his early teens realizes such a wonderful ambition. That a Lower School lad could make even one century is remarkable, but that young Don Muir did it twice in a single season of ten matches, while batting brilliantly against all kinds of bowling, some of it quite skilled, was certainly an item for Ridley's cricket record book. It was probably also a record of the Little Big Four; at least, Old Ridleians at the time could not recall a junior hitting a century in the cricket of the other three boarding schools.

Ridley's centuries had seemed less uncommon since 1928, when no less than four Ridley centuries were scored in the School season (three by the Bells and one by Fischer) and with as many scored – eight – between 1928 and 1931 as all Ridley's cricketers had scored in the thirty-eight years between 1889 and 1927. But not even the fact that Don Muir's two centuries were close upon Phil Seagram's three in 1930 and 1931 could lessen Ridley's excitement over the junior boy's feat. In 1935 Don Muir, now up with the First XI, scored his third century, 105 not out against Alpha Delta Phi.

Here is the list of Ridley's centuries achieved between 1929 and 1935:

<i>Season</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Batsman</i>	<i>Match</i>
1929	13	Hardy	102 vs. St. George's C.C.
1930	14	Seagram	102 vs. Buffalo West Side
1931	15	Seagram	100 not out vs. Hamilton District
	16	Seagram	131 vs. Upper Canada College
1933	17	Muir	102 vs. U.C.C. Prep.
	18	Clarke	118 vs. Trinity College School
	19	Muir	106 vs. Appleby III
1935	20	Muir	105 not out vs. Alpha Delta Phi

To emphasize the batting power of Ridley's mighty cricketers of the 1928-35 era who had made a century seem commonplace, was the rarity of 100 individual runs from now forward. One century was scored in 1937 (by Les Ashburner), and then another sixteen years later (by Norm Stewart), but those two – Ridley's twenty-first and twenty-second – were all that would be added to the School's total in her first seventy years.

The Lower School had a perfect season in 1933; they were still unbeaten in the last game when they defeated even the Masters XI by 75-74. Young

Rigby ma, the Lower School's captain, was extolled as "the smartest wicket-keeper the Lower School ever had". He deservedly shared honours with Don Muir. With such cricketers as Muir and Rigby ma on the way up, Ridley could have no apprehension about her cricket future.

In 1933 Ralph Ripley of the first XI had a fine "captain's innings" in the last school match of the year and his last for Ridley. It was against Upper Canada on Ridley's campus. His 53 not out must have been satisfying for he had batted steadily until Upper Canada's score was passed and the stumps could be drawn. A third-year colour himself, Ripley's Championship Team of 1933 was comprised of G. C. Powell (fifth year); D. L. Clarke (fourth year), a magnificent batsman who had scored his century to ensure victory over T.C.S.; F. H. Buck, R. S. Hart, A. L. McKinstry and D. A. Harper, all third-year; W. M. Cameron, who won the team bowling prize with 10.3, and R. W. Mitchell, both second-year; T. H. Orr and J. M. Smeaton, both first-year.

Next to winning the championship, the great thrill for Ridley's cricketers in 1933 was a quick visit by the victorious English XI returning home with the "Ashes" after defeating the Australians. With hopeful optimism Pro Coburn had prepared a wicket, just in case, but the English cricketers only intended to stop for lunch. They were prevailed upon after lunch to pause in the Assembly Hall long enough for their captain, D. R. Jardine, to say a few words, including his definition of cricket:

*"Cricket is a beautiful, beautiful game
That is battle and service and sport and art."*

Ridley's famous visitors then hurried away to see Niagara Falls.

A touring English cricket team – Sir Julien Cahn's XI – later played Ridley with a satisfying surprise follow-up in the form of high praise for Ridley in that eminent cricket authority: *The Cricketers' Annual*. Ridley was given the hallmark of excellence by Sir Julien Cahn who lauded the high type of game played at Ridley and the praiseworthy state of her cricket field. (The Cricket Committee mentally offered a deep cavalier bow in the general direction of Sir Julien, and the proudest man in the School was Pro Coburn, the keeper of the green.)

The cricketers went back to Bermuda once more in the summer of 1933, again staying at Belmont Manor. Once more, too, the hospitality of the Bermuda Cricket Club and their ladies, and the general tendency to relax, made cricket almost incidental.

The Ridley XI of 1934 had only two old colours as a base (R. S. Hart ma, the captain, and J. M. Smeaton) and it was soon evident that they were entering one of those recurrent dips in their cricket fortunes which all sports know. Fortunately, the one-year men would probably now be with the team

for at least the next two or three years, so it was hoped their period of cricket adversity would be short.

The School eleven's record in '34 was 5 games won, 3 drawn and 3 lost, but two of the losses were to Upper Canada 164-88 and to T.C.S. 213 for 7 to Ridley's 112. Wigle, the first man up for T.C.S., scored 101 and was not out when T. C. S. declared. Ridley then defeated St. Andrew's 198 for 8 to 34, the one game near the end in which some of Ridley's old batting power was restored. Don Muir, who had been so sensational at bat in the Lower School, was one of the youngest boys ever to win his school cricket colours and was rapidly developing; he scored 18 against St. Andrew's, 26 against T.C.S. and had an 18 in two other games. His season's batting average was 14.83. Hartma, the captain, won the batting prize with 22.7, and the bowling prize went to W. Wilson I with a high 12.37.

Lest any Ridleian might be downhearted about the 1934 showing, fine things were said about Ridley's cricket in the newly published *A Century of Cricket*:

Of the 66 matches played against the other members of the Little Big Four group since 1911, Ridley has won 55. . . .

It was a Ridley boy, Ross Somerville of London, who made the highest score ever made in school cricket in Canada, and the second highest ever made in Canada, 212 not out against Hamilton at Ridley in 1921. . . .

Another Ridley boy, L. C. Bell (now of Toronto C.C.), established in 1930 a record season's batting average of 62.5 including scores of over 50 in each of the Little Big Four matches. . . .

Ridley also holds the record for the highest team and individual scores in a school game, that of 261 for 6 against U.C.C. in 1931, and J. M. McAvity's 134 against the same school in 1927.

In 1935, a wet, difficult cricket season, Muir's batting average jumped to 28.73 on a total of 316 runs in 13 innings. Tony Cassels scored 197 runs for a 21.89 average. Scandrett topped the averages with 30.33 for 182 runs in only 8 innings. They were a trio of great batsmen. But Muir's great feat of scoring 105 not out against Alpha Delta Phi was by far the most spectacular individual feat of Ridley's cricket season.

It was Muir's third century in three years and No. 20 for Ridley.

This 1935 cricket season had been not short of fantastic in its weather frustrations, especially during the period of Ridley's bid for another cricket championship. They had a stronger team, as expected; by the time they met their first rival L.B.F. eleven in early June, they had won 6 games and lost 2, and were playing improved cricket in each test. Only Toronto Cricket Club had beaten them badly, 203 for 4 wickets to Ridley's 170. (This game was the

traditional Queen's Birthday match at Ridley against Mr. Dean's Toronto eleven.) Ridley could not fathom the bowling of Dewar and Loney or check the batting of Loney (43) or Spark Bell (33), and especially not that of their recent (1933) cricket captain, Ralph Ripley, who scored a century (103) as the first man up.

They still felt able to handle the three school elevens when they met St. Andrew's on June 5, and it appeared after St. Andrew's first innings that Ridley could indeed win; they had held St. Andrew's to 57 runs. Then, with 15 for 3 by Ridley, with their heaviest bats now due – came the deluge! It rained buckets and it continued to rain the rest of the day. Result: Drawn.

More frustration followed; against T.C.S. the Ridley eleven had a first innings of 206, and they had then held T.C.S. to 80 for 9 wickets when they ran out of time. *A drawn game.* The fine scores of 44 by MacLachlan mi, 28 by Tony Cassels, 25 by Don Muir and 23 by W. Scandrett were wasted. Stumps had been drawn with T.C.S. faced by the need to score 126 for 1 wicket!

It was not to be a Ridley year. Even if they had now defeated Upper Canada, the single win would not give them the championship. They failed to win; Upper Canada defeated Ridley 205 to 122 and were cricket champions for the second year in a row.

The 1935 cricket tour of combined school and Old Boy players went to Western Canada, and they were soon train-weary Ridleians. They played in Winnipeg (3 games); Regina; Moose Jaw (where Billy Bell, now a Ridley master, scored 73 and Tony Cassels 70); Saskatoon; Edmonton (where the Bell-Cassels partnership again did well, with 109 and 80, respectively); Calgary; Banff (a rest); Vancouver and, next, Victoria, and then Duncan, B.C.

The team arrived home after five days on the train in time for some to play an eleven from Bermuda. The Bermudians scored 200 in their innings, but Ridley came up with 205 for 5 (aided greatly by Billy and Spark Bell with 101 and 70).

GOODERHAM HOUSE NOTES

Gooderham House, the only house. It is not unfortunate like School House which has the detestable classrooms always glowering over it. . . . We are fortunate to have Mr. Hamilton as housemaster as before.

Mr. Cronyn, once lord of the Upper Domains, has left us, but every Thursday the unforgettable odour of his pipe again assails our nostrils. We also have another Old Boy, Mr. Glassco.

I propose to take you through the Gooderham House Gallery of Fame –

First, we come to Hart, a picture full of colour – much red hair and freckles. Harris is next, captain of the victorious rugby team, and Major of Cadets. Third along is Harry Deuell, sergeant-major

of the band. Fourth is Campbell with the cheery face, curly hair and golden voice, good old wily Wally Dolly. Next, Drake, poet, author and musician. Next is Savory with the wondering look, then Hall I, a chubby, cheerful character, first victim of the Second Watch. Hillock is next; with him it's Frankie and Jean (Harlow). Then Buck-shot Francis, five feet ten of muscle, brawn and brains, and Mitchell, a cheery sprite cramful of shrieks and howls. Jamieson ma, the flying wing, looks like a Sheik because Hilton broke his collarbone . . . last is Joe Lopez Silvero, a Cuban Señor.

"How do you like?"

Señor: "Be-eautiful. Is it not all hooey?"

I am squelched. That's all.

IS GOOD ENGLISH NECESSARY?

THE recent miscalled Ridley controversy over whether or not the study of Latin was necessary, which had been deliberately engineered to provide an opportunity to say it was unquestionably essential for sound education, had occurred while Ridley's masters, regardless of their subject, were still persistently campaigning against the prevailing emasculation of the English language. It was being abbreviated, corrupted and invaded by frightful impurities. The deterioration had accelerated dismayingly during the careless Roaring Twenties and it was continuing, with the purists in despair because some erudite professors defended change. They reiterated that custom is the only true authority. They would quote medieval English to prove their point, declaring that only new custom of speech prevented us from still singing Christmas carols in medieval English:

*"Such wonder tithingis ye mow here,
That maydon and modur is won i fere
And lady is of hye array."*

This seems to have been a period of Language Adjustment. There were many adherents of phonetic spelling and outspoken disciples of a sweeping change in usage of a language which was admittedly difficult to learn. There was inevitable conflict between established custom and the new forms. The sweeping assertion that passing popularity for an expression should automatically place it in the dictionaries probably caused Ridley's masters to retort "balderdash", just to prove they were not dogmatic purists and could use an accepted bit of slang. (This may have only argued against them, for they would fight against use of such a modern slang term as *scram*, which made quite as much sense as *balderdash* and which would eventually join *balderdash* in at least the American dictionaries.)

The contention they were emphatic about was that the practice of using

good English was imperative for any intelligent person, regardless of his degree of formal education. Ridley's masters had strong support in this, of course, throughout the realm of education. In recent months eminent educators in both Canada and the United States had been authoring article after article on English usage, not just to condemn the atrocities being daily perpetrated against the English language but to draw attention to the trend and to inspire a general counter-attack by all levels of education.

It helped to have a culprit to blame. There was probably not a schoolmaster in either Canada or the United States who deplored the deterioration in speech in the schools and, especially, in the school-yards, who failed to point an accusing finger at the newspapers as their Public Enemy No. 1. What newspaper influence was doing to common usage of the English language was considered appalling.

The educators were particularly acrid in condemning the influences of tabloidism and the "yellow press", meaning those newspapers which featured sensation for sensation's – and circulation's – sake and which habitually used a glib jargon in their reports. It was quite true that the addiction of most newspapers to abbreviation and phonetic spelling, a reflection of their fixation on brevity and condensation, saw them literally reporting news in the language of a writer of headlines. A respected Canadian editor of the old school supported the teachers and declared: "The tabloids are trying to reduce journalism to a series of pictures and captions, literature to a cavalcade of aphorisms, and spoken language to a succession of committal grunts." (*Postscript*: Arthur James Pegler, father of the famous columnist Westbrook Pegler, was the inventor of the "Hearst style" according to Ben Hecht and Robert J. Casey. This was a combination of trick idiom and blood-and-thunder headlines, well illustrated by the famous Hearst headline: "15 foul fiends dancing on the grave of this fair white girl." When Pegler Sr. wrote in a magazine article that a Hearst newspaper resembled "a screaming woman running down the street with her throat cut", he was promptly discharged by Hearst.)

The English heard on the radio was also castigated but was given a cleaner sheet; complaints against the speech of radio announcers were confined to poor pronunciation and careless grammar. The trend to tabloidism was considered much more harmful because it was generating a new form of expression. It was a strong influence because it had been resisted only by a few self-respecting conservative dailies and the unchanging country weeklies, which did not mind being called old-fashioned. It had infected most of the large-city dailies, in both Canada and the United States.

It was a side-issue to the concern of Ridley's masters about the deterioration in English usage, but this no doubt led into the prolonged, well-remembered debate at Ridley on the influence of the newspapers on public

good taste and attitudes. The public's sense of values seemed to be at an all-time low. Were the newspapers really to blame? If there had been formal terms of reference for the argument in which both masters and boys took part, they might have been stated thus:

Do the newspapers contaminate public taste, or does the public's insatiable demand for sensation contaminate the newspapers?

Considering the way the circulation figures of the sensation-mongering tabloids increased, it was certainly at least debatable if the shoddiness of prevailing public values were not the corrupting influence, with the newspapers spoon-feeding the public with what it demanded.

There were many debates similar to this discussion to reveal Ridley's alertness to what was happening to society, to its values and, of course, to its English.

Matching – pushing – the careless use of English was the flood of neologisms in use, and the fresh slang terms being manufactured every day, some of them momentarily so popular they could easily become accepted. Ridley's English masters, starting with the first, Dr. Miller, were never inflexible purists. Too many intriguing words were always being coined for that, with some of them good, because they expressed a precise meaning. They just respected the English language and were intent on instilling that respect in their young charges; that was all. Habitual use of good English in the Ridley classrooms was always insisted upon, but to control slang after class in a boys' boarding school was hopeless. The best they could do was to exclude it from general conversation as much as possible. The very quickness of boys to pick up new expressions and cryptic phrases was an obstacle in the path of polite speech in the school-yard, and just now a glossary of Ridley's slang would have filled a small volume.

TRITE TRIPE

*Oh, whence, from where do we derive
The slang of nineteen thirty-five,
Expressions now, it seems to me,
Have changed since my day ('23).*

*Old words are dated like the bustle.
Instead of bravo! just say muscle.
Descriptive words abound in school,
Like drip and dreep and droop and drool .*

*And repartee is snappy, viz –
 Oh, pretty fast or didn't fizz.
 Now What the – ? Why the – are no more,
 Instead we just resort to "score".*

*A wealth of feeling we can cram
 In one poetic word like scam.
 Deride we may with squirt or phooey,
 Half-pint, feeble, nerts or screwy.*

– Nebula

Their slang was seldom suggestive, and the telling of smutty stories never seemed to become very prevalent. Some masters used mild current slang expressions in their casual chats with the smaller boys, for they thought that it helped remove restraint and the years which stood between them; and it may have done so. With a grin, Rep Williams had once agreed with a boy that "everything was jake". He had also startled a delinquent (in 1922) unhappily visiting his office, by greeting him: "So you are in Dutch again with Mr. Finch?" It was perhaps over the borderline of good taste, yet he turned away, deaf, when he heard a small boy yell at another who was wearing a new, short winter coat: "Hey, Puffer, where did you get the bum freezer?"

"There are times," said Rep Williams once, "when it's best to be deaf, even to hide, rather than to humiliate a boy in front of his friends, especially if he happens to be inherently clean-minded."

Part of his teaching philosophy had been: "The important things are kept important by ignoring small-boy *trivialis*." He illustrated the general attitude of Ridley's masters at all periods.

He had been known as a "holy terror" where foul language or blasphemy were concerned, and Mr. Brown, now Master-in-charge of the Lower School, had quickly disclosed his own angry abhorrence when a lad let some gutter language slip. The truth was, however, that oaths or curses were not too often heard in the environs of Ridley. There was a general decency about Ridleian speech, with expressions by masters as old-fashioned as fiddlesticks and tarnation not uncommon. With the boys a cheat had become a gyp, a girl a fluff, a fellow a good guy or a dizzy bird. Since the war, to die was to go west. To object to such terms in boy language was a waste of time and bad policy, to boot. Dr. Griffith only reprovably said, "Tut, tut!" when he overheard a boy greeting another with, "Hello, sucker!" He knew this did not indicate admiration for Texas Guinan, the spectacular night club hostess who coined the term. It was just a currently popular greeting with a jeer in it.

Even the international scene provided rare opportunities to add to their vocabulary of jeers or to inspire a boy's irresistible impulse for mimicry and burlesque. Some choice buffoons were strutting about in pomposity on the international stage. Their Nazi salute and greeting: "Heil Hitler!" as they encountered other boys was innocent of all meaning but intended to burlesque a militant clown, with a Charlie Chaplin moustache, who was prancing across a distant wing of the international stage. When the others responded with "Heil Hitler!" and a good imitation of a storm-trooper's boot coming down with a crash, they were just completing the jeer. It was fun even to add guttural German epithets – "*Schweinehunde!*" – to their boy-revilings (but it may also have reflected the deep impression which Hitler's radio rantings and incessantly marching Nazi bands were having on them). In 1936 they switched from "Heil Hitler!" on meeting a pal to "Heil Selassie!", as that other international clown, the bemedalled, breast-beating one, Mussolini, conquered Ethiopia in defiance of treaties, the League of Nations and the rights of little nations. Both clowns would soon prove they were deadly.

The editors of *Acta Ridleiana* had naturally joined in the school crusade for the maintenance of good English by the boys and were busy trying to inspire better writing. One memorable article ignored the assault on slang and discussed the use, misuse and especially the over-use of the adjective. It was probably written by a master, for a hint of professional certitude was easily detected, but its emphatic attack on overuse of adjectives, abstracts and illusions must have had a valuable effect on Ridley's aspiring young writers. The author said one concrete statement was worth a whole bouquet of adjectives; he seemed fascinated by the effectiveness of an extremely strict economy in their use:

Unadorned, adjectives are like gowns; an over-dressed or unsuitably dressed woman is a frump, however fine the dresses. If there is any doubt about the suitability of an adjective, it is the wrong one; if there is any doubt about the need for an adjective, it is not needed; if an adjective is hackneyed by being used to mean all kinds of things, by being popularly associated with some unfortunate noun, it is best omitted. And an unnecessary or unsuitable adjective will turn your fine noun into a frump.

The author of the advice was also strongly opposed to emotional writing, perhaps because of his distaste for the so-called realism which was now an overdone habit of the popular writers. To illustrate his dislike for emotion he lauded a description of the Battle of Passchendaele because it did not include a single "stillness of death" or "silence of desolation". The battle-piece he chose sounded as if written by someone who was not there but who might have written a good operation order. Oddly, it was in the terse, choppy descriptive style which had become popular along with realism. But the

advice given to Ridley's young writers on sparing use of the adjective was basically very sound.

The disturbed feeling of *Acta's* editors over Ridley's English usage, at least as it was manifested in submissions to the journal, did not boil up into indignant protest without a serious effort to obtain improvement by more polite methods, even if their critical feeling was of long standing. In 1931 they had tried offering a prize for the best Fifth Form essay, with the result a shocker; the quality of all submissions was so poor it was decided not to award the prize. ("We hope we are not asked to do so.")

"The extraordinary thing is that our aspiring contributors did not know their stuff was bad," wrote the editor. "We have had to discard thousands of lines of copy as being ungrammatical, or badly arranged, or dull."

Commenting on the dearth of well-written, usable submissions to the school journal, the editor in 1931 also had blunt criticism for the Ontario Department of Education:

The system imposed on us by our provincial directors of education for years past has been inimical to the experience of English as a living, to-be-spoken and to-be-written language, and it is probably true that our boys will continue to be tongue-tied or pen-tied as long as our matriculation requires only a play of Shakespeare, one quarter of a seventy-five cent book of assorted poems, an affidavit to the effect that the boy has read *Ivanhoe* and *Harry Desmond*, and a composition on a subject that would defy the ingenuity of a *Mail & Empire* staff writer.

He claimed that submissions to *Acta* were mostly useless literary productions and seemed also to blame the boys and by implication, the English masters:

Not realizing that they can and do talk in a coherent and interesting way, they (the boys) make no attempt to write their ideas as they would speak them, but adopt a pedantic and stilted style borrowed in part from textbooks and models for 'compositions', and their ideas, usually free and good, get lost in a morass of sticky mannerisms.

Ridley's editor further suggested that the sooner boys got down to purposeful reading the sooner their writings would be accepted: ("No boy who has done a reasonable amount of reading has any trouble expressing himself.") About the only point omitted in all this advice to boys who had a desire to set themselves down in front of an expanse of white space with pen rampant, was the old, still-to-be-disproven adage: "You learn to write by writing."

It was not mentioned because it was probably taken for granted. Ridley's English masters were always aware in all periods that you could not create

skilled writers by lectures, scoldings or drill in the use of grammar. The policy for the teaching of English had been set by Ridley's first English master, Dr. Miller who was an excellent writer, and if it was felt that there was a lapse at this moment, Dr. Miller's teaching philosophy seems to have been faithfully followed by successive English masters, many of whom were also gifted in expressing themselves on paper. They certainly all knew that a class was not learning to read by creeping through *Ivanhoe* at seven pages per day or learning to write by parsing sentences or memorizing the rules for the use of indefinite pronouns.

This was so because all knew that the great advantage of education in an independent school was freedom from a departmental requirement to follow a set pattern of instruction, or drill in rules, or in ritualistic exercises which were simultaneously proceeding in other schools. Public and high schools may have had to do it in case of transfers, but Ridley could avoid such mechanization. Her English masters could emphasize instead the things which would equip boys for future learning by helping them to recognize what they would need to know, and this freedom could particularly apply to reading. The policy of Ridley's English masters was to seek to enable Ridley's boys to acquire through reading some familiarity with the important conceptions of our culture and through practice in writing and speaking the ability to express themselves with clarity and effectiveness. This was why all Ridley's headmasters made almost a fetish of the School's library facilities. It was why Dr. Miller had instituted speaking and reading contests very early and why he encouraged submissions by the boys to *Acta*, even in the Nineties when its space was limited.

The same reason was motivating Dr. Griffith, also a truly fine scholar, when he seemed to harp on the subject of research; it was in the knowledge that the prerequisite to the pursuit of knowledge – and of learning to write with intelligence – was to read.

Schoolmasters do not always agree on the speed of reading, but it is recalled that an English master exclaimed: "Don't divide a single thought into fifty separate words and two hundred syllables," which seems to testify to his belief that it is the rapid reader who can closely approximate the thought pattern of the writer.

Dr. Griffith had a theory that the ability to listen intelligently was a skill requiring attention with reading, writing and speaking. When he said so the class might think he was jumping on them for their wandering inattention, but he was serious. He once said: "To listen constructively can be very valuable. It needs systematic training and controlled practice."

An Old Boy recalled his advice: "Don't listen for facts only, listen for ideas, too. Don't let a poor delivery spoil food for your mind. Don't pace your thought speed to a deliberate speaker's speed and become bored; he may have

profound things to say." About reading he would urge the boys to read for knowledge not escapism: "Take the delight of discovering the minds of great men and you will find you can write with meaning."

However, judging by the critical tone of some members of the staff, it was clearly felt that there was inadequate actual writing practice at Ridley. They could not be criticized for implying that no amount of exercise in word definition or drill in grammar can take the place of the regular and frequent experience of setting words meaningfully on paper – of learning to write by writing. Perhaps at this particular period there was insufficient incentive or time for the Ridley boys to get down to serious writing. Perhaps it was time for restoration of the old essay contests and the concentration on writing of an earlier Ridley day.

Yet the English classes were apparently kept interesting at this period on the wise theory that if you make a subject fascinating the boys will do the rest themselves. Recollections of Old Boys of bright classroom passages on such phases as word definition clearly say that Ridley's English masters were neither stuffily pedantic nor unyielding purists. This is recalled: "When you use an idiom, for goodness sakes leave it an idiom. *Hold steady* is an idiom, but *hold steadily* is painting the lily." The boys were often given pithy advice on the desirability of finding the word with the exact meaning to express a thought; the clarity with which some of it is remembered surely proves that the lessons went home. An Old Boy recalls his English master saying: "Verbal means in words, either written or spoken, so when you wish to convey the idea that something has been said, not written, the expression you want is oral. If it is written say so. If exactness is important to you, and it will have to be if you are ever going to express yourself with intelligence, forget verbal. Don't use it. The word has an unpleasant sound anyway." Because the advice was so pungent and practical the Old Boy never forgot it. ("I have since noticed scores of so-called well-educated men using verbal when they mean oral.")

Another remembered lesson by scholarly R. L. White, English master in 1930, went something like this: "Prior to is stuffy; why not be satisfied with before? Apprise is another stuffy one, just a high-falutin' substitute for inform, tell or notify. Why not use them if they say what you mean? And don't say witness except with a legal connotation. Otherwise you see a thing, or watch or observe it. Any one of them is better than witness."

Mr. White, then on *Acta's* staff, had noticed the word esoteric used in a cricket report. "It protruded from the excellent sports report in otherwise clear English like an embarrassed orchid, surprised to find itself in a field of healthy daisies," said Mr. White. "Never use a word that does not fit its companions or your attempt to impress your erudition will rebound in ridicule." The Old Boy said he never forgot that lesson, either.

Perhaps the outburst by *Acta's* editor in 1931 had good effect – on *Acta* and its youthful contributors. Something did. In that year the contents were almost entirely house and school reports, with *Scripta Ridleiana* a minor portion; by 1933 this was nearly reversed. In the Easter issue no less than thirteen submissions of articles, short fiction and humour by the boys were produced under the heading *Scripta Ridleiana*, with an additional six examples of excellent verse. Further, the quality of the writing had definitely improved.

THE Depression worked one interesting development for the schools of the Little Big Four, which their boards of directors could have done without; they had so many vacant rooms, even whole dormitories, that for the first time they could play week-end host to entire forms or houses of the others. The Lower School staged such a mass invasion of Trinity College School in 1934 and then were hosts in turn to the juniors of T.C.S.

Such jaunts were now commonplace for the Lower School because Master-in-charge E. V. Brown had disclosed great ingenuity from the moment of his arrival in keeping the boys busy and interested, indoors and out, at all seasons. Sunday excursions abroad became a regular habit, with the big problem one of transportation. Mr. Brown discovered he could not commandeer enough motor-cars, so he contrived a boxlike contraption to serve as a van. With the help of a friendly garage he acquired an old truck chassis and a motor at a bargain. Mr. Brown and Sgt. Alexander then built the van, to haul the overflow of boys who could not be accommodated in borrowed motor-cars. Old Boys who attended the Lower School in the Depression years will recall those happy Saturday or Sunday outings, with lunches packed in hamper and Mr. Brown urging the start with his call: "All aboard!" – for Decew Falls or Rockway or Effingham or some picnic spot along the Welland Canal. They visited Government Beach and sometimes Mr. Ab Taylor's cottage on Lake Ontario, and a lot of industrial plants on Saturday afternoons. Mr. Brown did not overlook historical sites like Fort Mississauga or Old Fort Niagara but avoided Queenston Heights, which years before Ridley visited *en masse* once each year; he suspected his cavalcade of transport vehicles would never make the long hill from Queenston. The boys loved the expeditions, especially when they had a modern bus. They were not enamoured with riding in the dark interior of the caravan: it had no side windows which meant heroic struggles to win a rear seat. The duty masters who were not outdoor types were not enamoured with either the trips or the van; they had to go along and to ride inside to keep order.

The Muscle-binders let Mr. Brown know they had fallen out of love with the whole thing, at least on Saturday afternoons. There had been Saturday

trips to factories like the Ontario Paper Co. and the Atlas Steel Co., and now another was scheduled. Forty boys were named for it, including the Muscle-binders, but Pat Boswell, Ben Cronyn and Murray Snively decided to revolt; they organized a most effective tactic of passive resistance. They vanished – all forty of them. A big new bus had been hired to replace the gloomy van; it was waiting; and Mr. Brown was hallooing his familiar “All aboard!” – but there was not a boy to be found!

Ridley boys had always disclosed remarkable skill in evaporating, but forty of them to disappear into thin air was a record. Mr. Brown called and called, growing angrier and angrier. He enlisted Dr. Bett, the Matron and several masters, all to no avail. It was uncanny; the Lower School had few places where so many boys could lay themselves away, but not a boy could be turned up. The staff knew some hide-outs the boys didn’t realize they knew and uncovered others, but no boys. Mr. Brown finally sent the bus home in disgust. (*Postscript*: “He must have been tired,” recalled an original Muscle-binder. “The night before he had mass-strapped our dorm because of a 4.00 a.m. raid with water-bombs. The fight that started wasn’t stopped by Mr. Brown and the duty master for fifteen minutes, and by the time Mr. Brown had given six on each to all boys caught outside their dorm – which was us – it was broad day. No wonder he was tired and cranky. We must have been hell-on-wheels to handle.”)

Where did the boys hide out? It is still their secret; Pat Boswell was an ingenious rebel leader. Mr. Brown held no resentment over the cancelled bus trip; he realized the vanishing act of the boys had been a protest against too much organization of their spare time. The trips continued, but he made sure they had reasonable time to organize their own play and to try out their own resourceful inspirations in mischief and self-entertainment.

Mr. Brown’s odd-looking caravan was maintaining Ridley’s repute for producing weird vehicles. It attracted almost as much astonished attention as the one which had turned up in 1929. Described as a tractor in the Board’s minutes it was the gift of Mr. W. Jones of the International Garage; it was a mechanical hybrid, composed of parts of several old cars and painted a bright orange with black trim. It proved very useful in caring for Ridley’s many green acres, but visitors stared at it with only a little less surprise than they once displayed at first sight of Ridley’s ancient horse, equipped with flopping leather overshoes, as it dragged a roller and mower over the cricket and football fields.

Indoors Mr. Brown’s imagination developed interest in revived or new organizations such as the stamp club, the railroad club, the model aircraft club and an art-and-camera club. He also kept the boys busy with fretwork and visits to view the St. Catharines City Council in action, and to such institutions as the Ontario School for the Blind at Brantford. Through the

As Familiar as the School . . .



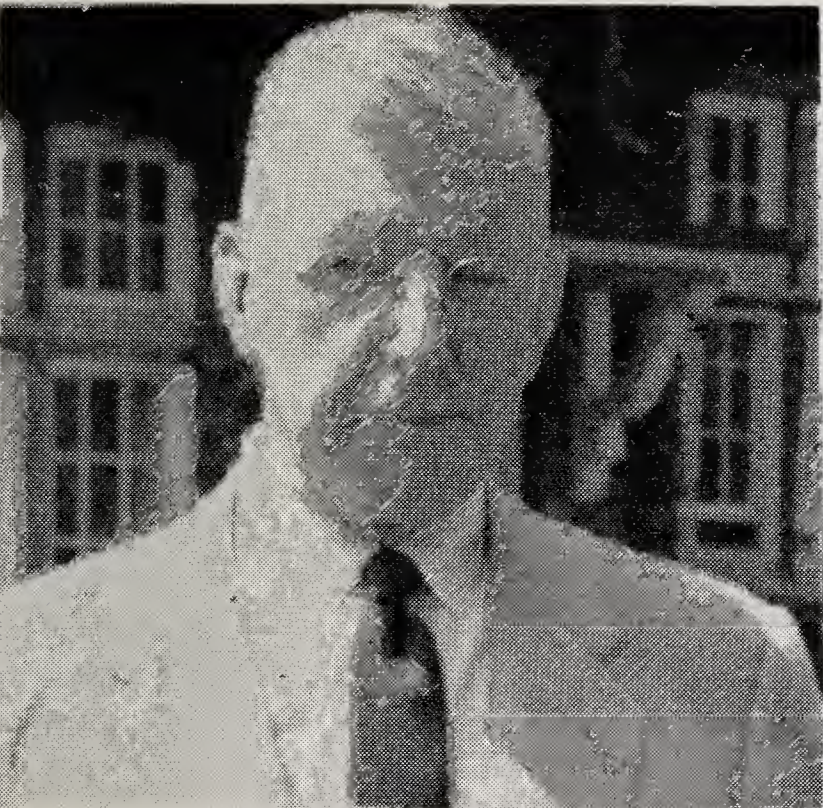
MR. MEL (G. M.) BROCK
Staff 1914-15; 1921-53



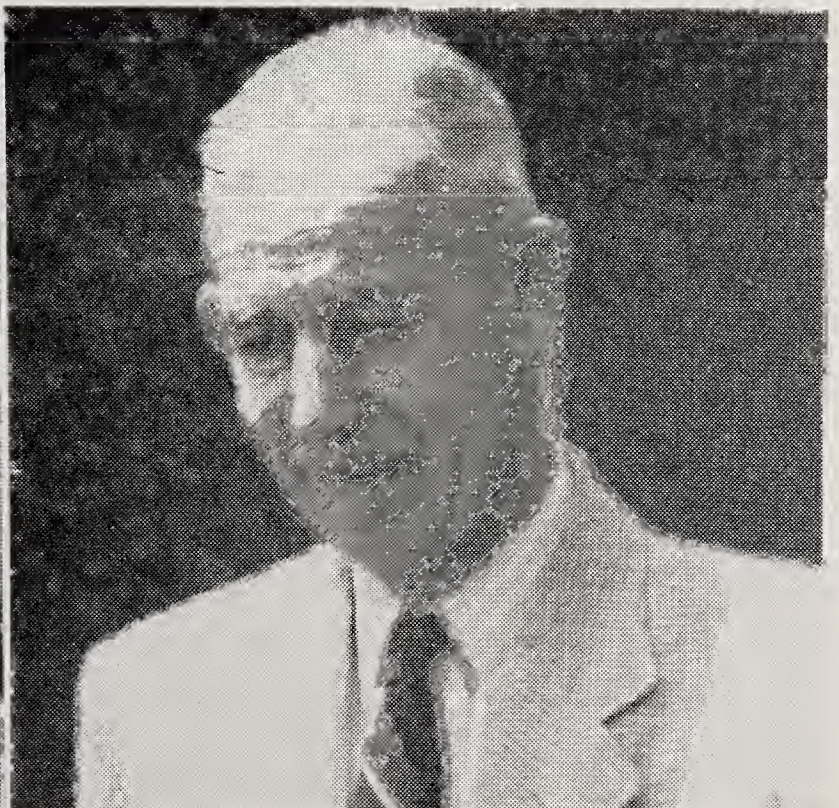
MR. TWA (C. E. H.) THOMAS
Staff 1912-38



MR. ERNIE (E. G.) POWELL
Staff 1900-46



MR. J. C. ASHBURNER
Staff 1916-52



MR. TWINK (R. S.) COCKBURN
Staff 1921 (continuing in 1959)



Cadet Sunday: The march to church

kindness of Mr. Burgoyne of the *St. Catharines Standard*, a printer's club had long been active, and now Mr. Brown obtained an excellent press, the gift of H. M. Robertson of New York. The boy-printers were soon producing programmes and lists for the other schools. Friday nights were once a problem to fill, but the boys of the Lower School were now saying: "We're so busy, we've even run out of Fridays."

With their sport also well organized, the Muscle-binders' rebellion against over-organized Saturdays was understandable. Boys need to develop imagination and self-reliance by creating their own play and becoming engrossed in their own inspirations. There was lots of time left for that; Mr. Brown knew there were probably just as many catapults to emulate David's sling and bows and arrows fashioned in the style of Tecumseh, Robin Hood and William Tell as had ever been hidden away in the Lower School. Things were only organized enough to avoid small-boy boredom and restlessness. No better antidote to mischief has ever been discovered.

If Ridley's boys enjoyed paying overnight visits to other schools and playing host in turn, no fraternal Ridley visits or visitors could ever equal the pleasure and value of the Old Boys' Week-end, a comparatively new regular event. The one held in June, 1933 was the second. It proved such an inspiration to surging school spirit that it is not clear whether it was the boys or the Old Boys who enjoyed it most. It had the planned special purpose mentioned earlier – recruiting. This big June week-end of 1933 saw the return to Ridley of the largest number of Old Boys since the Memorial Chapel was opened. Eighty-four Old Boys proved how they were rallying to Ridley's aid in her time of threat and adversity.

Other than the serious underlying purpose inserted by Dr. Griffith and the Association's officers, proceedings were much the same in following, less urgent years. Weather permitting there would be a cricket match, with the Old Boys batting in relays up to seventeen. (There were four matches in 1933.) Then a dinner would be held by the Old Boys, with some of the staff invited, generally at the Welland House. If there was little formal speech-making there would be some fine singing by the Marani Duo or Joey Lee or P. C. Tidy or E. G. Riselay, and Ted Bullen, who wrote fine poetry and who was also an accomplished after-dinner raconteur. On Sunday the Old Boys who did not golf would just reminisce, contentedly. Later, Sunday's lunch would be held at the School, but in 1933 it was at the Welland House. A famous dinner at the Welland House in 1911 was recalled by production of its menu. This was the Complimentary Dinner tendered to the great XI which had won Ridley's first Little Big Four Cricket Championship in that year to mark the start of Ridley's rise to one of the great cricket schools. (In checking the players of 1911 no less than eight of their sons and two of their nephews were found to be attending Ridley in 1933.)

That second Annual Old Boys' Week-end in June did its work well; at least, they returned home inspired to recruit new boys in dead earnest and must be given a good share of credit for halting Ridley's private depression. It was that September which saw twenty-seven new boys invading the Lower School, in contrast to only three the year before.

There was another Old Boys' Week-end at Ridley in 1934, and to return for the June week-end of 1935 was an Old Ridleian who had to suffer much "razzing". He was the first Old Boy ever to be elected to the Canadian House of Commons: F. C. Betts ('08-'15), one of the few Conservative candidates to survive the Liberal victory in the general election of October 1934. He was a rarity because, despite Ridley's mock parliaments and permanent courses in civics and public speaking, few of her Old Boys had entered politics above the municipal level. Boys had loftily explained why forty years before; it was because Ridley was seriously concerned with the study of ethics. But Fred Betts, M.P., cleverly countered this by pointing out that high personal principles and true statesmanship were not at all incompatible.

For the School, June was always an intensely busy month, with much cramming for exams (when time could be spared from cricket and practice in track-and-field), with everyone's mind on Prize Day – and then home for the summer holidays.

SPORTS AND PRIZE DAYS (1933-4-5)

SPORTS Day in recent years had been indicating more than just the track-and-field champions in the four grades – Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Lower School. Points were now awarded for team colours and also for placings in each previous autumn's cross-country run. The intention was to declare the athletic champions of the School.

As usual, many track events were run off during previous days, but on the big day itself it was often nearly dark before the last boy had come forward to receive his cup, shield or medal. Three long tables were now necessary to hold the glittering array of silverware over which the ladies of the Women's Guild presided. In 1933 Mrs. James Harris presented the awards; in 1934 it was Mrs. Schuyler Snively, and in 1935 it was Mrs. J. H. N. Drope. (Her son's football feat the fall before was still talked about. Playing with the Lower School team at Gray Gables he kicked the ball into a tree, where it hit a sharp twig – and exploded!)

There had been sharp criticism, particularly from the Lower School, over starting arrangements of the events in 1934. More than sixty boys had entered for the 440 run, with the intended start in three tiers ending up as a struggling mob. ("I couldn't get past their elbows, and never did get out of the mob.") There was improvement in 1935.

THE CHAMPIONS

	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Lower School</i>
1933	C. A. Stocking	V. Francis	H. L. Dougherty	R. P. Rigby (mi)
1934	V. H. Goad	J. W. Mitchell	R. P. Rigby (mi)	J. R. Geary (ma)
1935	J. W. Mitchell	W. P. Patterson	D. G. McClelland	P. G. G. Powell

An interesting feature in all three years was that the winner of the Junior Championship in each year was a Lower School boy, competing against Upper School boys. H. L. Dougherty, Junior Champion in 1933, only entered in four events and he won all four: 100 yards, hurdles and both the high and broad jumps.

The rise of socialistic thinking and the spread of Marxism was now always in the minds of educators and it was often reflected in their speeches on Prize Day. Clerics were also deeply concerned. In 1933 The Right Reverend L. W. B. Broughall, M.A., D.D., newly appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Niagara, spoke of the difficulties and instability of the times and warned the youth of the land not to accept all new social ideas just because they were new. He urged the boys to think first and, at the same time, to take a broad view of people who are different and strange.

Prize Day of 1933 saw Mr. Brown give his first review of his School's work. He spoke with his pride in the School in his voice and paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Williams. Dr. Griffith reported that Ridley's high academic standing (1933) was being maintained; of the previous pass matriculation examinations, 85 per cent of Ridley's papers were successful; it was 89 per cent in the Honour Matric exams. In the spring university examinations, forty-three Ridley Old Boys had been successful at U. of T.; fifteen at McGill and eight at Osgoode Hall. The impact Ridley was having on the institutions of higher learning was growing stronger year by year. (*Postscript*: In 1933 there was record of ninety-nine Ridley Old Boys known to be attending Canadian, British and American universities – one or two may have been missed.)

Prize Day on June 21, 1934 also incorporated the official opening of Ridley's new gates. A series of six imposing pillars, designed by Old Boy Ferdie Marani's architectural firm, Marani, Lawson and Morris, they were the gift of the late Edward Marriott. The whole School lined the road leading to the gates for the ceremony, performed by His Honour, Lieutenant-Governor Herbert A. Bruce. His Honour, who inspected a fine Honour Guard of cadets, was then formally asked by local Board Chairman A. W. Taylor to declare the gates open. Prize Day proceedings followed with the Lieutenant-Governor presenting the awards.

In 1935 Ridley was honoured to have the Primate of the Anglican Church in Canada, His Grace, Archbishop Derwyn T. Owen, whose two sons had recently graduated, to present the prizes to the boys.

	MASON GOLD MEDAL FOR TRUE MANLINESS (on the vote of the boys)	HEAD BOY (Governor-General's Gold Medal)	HEAD BOY of the Lower School (Mason Gold Medal)
1933	R. C. Ripley	T. H. Orr	W. J. Geary (ma)
1934	E. Rossiter	A. H. Griffith	J. B. Cronyn I
1935	C. M. MacLachlan	A. H. Griffith	B. B. Cronyn (ma)

*Term Diary, Lower School, June 15, 1935: SPEECH DAY –
It's all over – even the shouting! Good-bye to a marvellous
year.*

The most notable staff changes and innovations in Ridley's curriculum in these years had been the establishment in 1933 of a new Upper School course in Commercial Administration and the return of Old Boy Meredith Glassco ('20-'27) to take charge of the new course. After leaving Ridley he had entered McGill and had graduated as a Bachelor of Commerce. He had been with an insurance firm before deciding to come back to Ridley. In the Lower School the great change in 1933 had been the retirement after seventeen years of Matron Crawford. The boys were very attached to her but warmly welcomed her successor, Mrs. Graves, who had been with Lake Lodge School at Grimsby. Mr. John Guest and Mr. Hugh Baker were new (1933) Lower School masters. Mr. Hugh Ketchum had left after one year.

In the autumn of 1935 another much-regretted gap appeared in the life of the Lower School. Mr. Brockwell who had been a Ridley master for twenty-three years had resigned. He would be missed at Ridley by boys, staff and Old Boys, but those who visited Onondaga Camp at Minden, Ontario, would see him. He had founded the camp in 1922 and would now devote his full time to it. Mr. John Page, B.A., was the new master to replace Mr. Brockwell. An Old Boy of Upper Canada, he had been associated with Camp Onondaga and knew Ridley's staff well. There were two other gaps in 1935: Mr. W. E. N. Bell, who had become a virtual cricket and football legend, with his equally famous brother, Spark, had been one of the boys' proudest boasts as a master; he now left Ridley. During the summer he had become associated with a St. Catharines law firm, Collier and Schiller. Mr. L. A. Gilbert also left, moving to a school in Northern Ontario.

In their places came Mr. E. A. McCourt, B.A., a Rhodes Scholar, and Mr. A. E. Sparling. An innovation was an art class under Mr. Thomas Leighton, established in late 1935 in Dean's House. Twenty to thirty boys attended his art classes twice each week, and very earnest young artists also took lessons in their own time in Mr. Leighton's downtown studio. He was a protégé of John Russell.

MERRITT HOUSE NOTES, 1933

Social news and a few questions –

Who dropped the bag of cold water on Sandy Wilson while he was organizing his fresh-air cult?

Where and by whom were the following said? – “Where’s my Hiram?” “Hiram, please hurry and get me some more punch.”

Slush Harris encountered a lot of bad luck on the afternoon that the Seconds played U.C.C. What excuses! (1) a flat tire; (2) held up by a long freight; (3) waiting for a street car.

The back of Merritt House looks like a miniature forest, or so Mr. Thomas claims. We will leave him to his summertime putting green and hope he is still there to welcome us back.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS: 1933 and 1935

AS RIDLEY was reassembling for the new term in 1933, all talk had turned to football as usual, but this autumn it was not about who would or would not make the first team but about the new rugby rules and the forward pass. They had known since spring that the Little Big Four would adopt Canadian Rugby Union rules, and that meant emphasis on the new aerial attack. To the spectators it would be an innovation, but Ridley’s rugby players had been experimenting with the forward pass during the previous two seasons. It was the wise counsel of Ridley’s famous football coach – Dr. Griffith – that they should concentrate on its defence, treat it with respect, but not go overboard for it at the risk of Ridley’s well-known fine running game. It was also the consensus of opinion in Ridley’s pre-season strategy sessions that in the new football situation being created, some teams might place too much dependence on the forward pass and that Ridley might cash in on their over-eagerness for long gains – which they did, and Ridley did.

The new rules and the forward pass had some violent critics, all of them voluble. They deluged the sports pages with letters and some wrote scathingly to the headmasters of all four Little Big Four preparatory schools. The new open game with its forward pass would lead to unlimited interference they said, and, anyway, wasn’t it imported from a game operated as a business not a sport? Were the schools going to make rugby a spectators’ spectacle for the sake of dollars at the gate? Or would they play the game for the sake of the game and the players? The critics claimed the new imported game was causing many accidents; were the schools going to increase the number of youths maimed on the football field? Didn’t the new rules discard all semblance of a true Canadian game?

If Ridley had been badly beaten in 1933, the grumbles against the new rules might have become louder, but the opposite occurred. The first team performed

like such old hands, with both the new rules and the forward pass, that they had a sweep of all their games – not just those of the important inter-school schedule but all of them. “We went through the season without defeat. It was a long time since that had been done,” said the football reporter. (His memory was short; the 1931 football team had a clean sweep.)

It had been Coach Dr. Griffith’s conviction that Ridley’s teams should use the forward pass judiciously. They completed 3 out of 5 against Hamilton Tech, in the first game of the season, a low-scoring, thumping game won by Ridley 8-5. In the second game Ridley again used the forward pass sparingly while Jarvis Collegiate went overboard for it, and because Ridley’s wings and backs were following down so fast Jarvis only completed 5 out of 22. Ridley had several valuable interceptions, to boot. They swamped Jarvis 44-6. (Jarvis received a shocking lesson in the forward pass and its use but learned it so well they were the only team to defeat Ridley in 1935.)

The School had one forward pass touch-down against the Old Boys which may have inspired confidence, for Armstrong, Hart and Rossiter all threw several completed passes for long gains in the next game which was a fantastic defeat of Hamilton Central, 75-0. This gave football captain J. M. Harris (middle) and Ernie Rossiter, who was doing the quarter-backing and who was throwing brilliantly, even more assurance for the first school game against T.C.S. Rossiter’s long passes were a major factor in Ridley’s 52-2 win. Hart proved a great receiver. In defeating Upper Canada, however, they only tried 7 forward passes, completing 3 of them for good gains. Upper Canada threw too many and found Ridley’s defence too fast. Ridley won 25-1. In the crucial game against St. Andrew’s which meant the championship, both teams were wary of using the forward pass; in a hard, careful game Ridley won 20-13.

The dominance of Ridley over all football rivals in 1933 is seen in the season’s total scoring. For 261; against 28, with almost half of the latter by St. Andrew’s in the final game of the season.

Once again, the football reporter was saying: “The team is one of the strongest Ridley has ever had.” This time he had much justification for his admiration.

Some Ridleians proclaimed that the main reason for Ridley’s scoring success on long passes was that basketball experience helped them with the forward throw. It is true that several of the best footballers were also ardent basketballers in the winter rather than hockey players, but the basic reason for Ridley’s power was the personal physical fitness of every man on the team, plus their intense interest in practice and the wonderful coaching by Dr. Griffith. No team was more faithful. They kept fit throughout the season. On top of that, Coach Griffith had drilled them in such a variety of heady offensive plays that they netted their 261 points in only 7 games. Also their defence was

like a wall; if it had not been, a lot more than 28 points would have been scored against them.

Yes, this was a great Ridley football team in 1933, but the coaching should not be forgotten. Coach Griffith was applauded by sports writers for developing a remarkably successful pass defence.

In the midst of the season (on October 25) most of the footballers turned out with a smart guard-of-honour to greet the Governor-General of Canada, Lord Bessborough, and Lady Bessborough. Football captain Harris was Cadet Major; his snap-back was Cadet Captain and Adjutant, J. M. Smeaton. Cadet Captain R. S. Hart was right outside on the football team; Cadet Captain V. H. Goad was a left-inside wing; and Cadet Lieutenant E. Rossiter was the quarterback. Further, the Cadet Corps' three Platoon Sergeants-major were V. Francis (right half), Cam MacLachlan (sub.) and D. D. Owen (left half). The cadet-footballers paraded with the Corps on Dr. Griffith's lawn, with the band and the School lining the road to the gates. After inspection by His Excellency, and a smartly carried-out Royal Salute, they went back to football.

The 1933 championship team earned a permanent place in Ridley's football annals. The team, with the usual comments by the football reporter:

J. M. Harris – captain; right middle – third year – “A tower of strength in both offence and defence. He had the confidence of his team and much of its success is due to his spirit. He will be remembered as one of Ridley's greatest captains.”

E. Rossiter – quarterback – third year – “One of the best quarters in Ridley's history. Fast with his signals. Threw his forward passes with rare skill. Used splendid judgment in his plays.”

R. S. Hart – right outside – second year – “A really good outside wing; fast, strong tackler. Splendid receiver of forward passes.”

D. D. Owen – left half – second year – “Much stronger than last year. Effective on end runs and on secondary defence. Constantly broke up plays by quick tackles.”

V. Francis – right half – second year – “One of the best running half-backs in the history of Ridley football. His runs in the T.C.S. and U.C.C. matches had much to do with the team's success.”

V. H. Goad – left inside – second year – “A strong linesman. Strong on offence and effective in anticipating and breaking up plays. Recovered several fumbles. Played hard in the school matches.”

R. M. Hall – left middle; first year – “Wonderfully improved as season advanced. Splendid line-plunger; played a hard consistent game.”

W. D. W. Hilton – flying wing; first year – “Fast and aggressive tackler. Good drop kicker. One of most valuable men on the team.”

R. J. Armstrong – centre-half; first year – “Fast, clever open field runner. Good hands and fine left-foot kicker – strong on placements – great spirit.”

R. G. Gray – left outside; first year – “Strong in defence; powerful line plunger; his try in St. Andrew's game a splendid achievement.”

J. M. Smeaton – snap-back; first year – “Hard working and reliable; sure and fast in snapping.”

J. H. Jamieson – flying wing; first year – “Took Hilton’s place in U.C.C. and St. Andrew’s games when he was injured. Lightest player on the team, and the fastest. Good in receiving forward passes, particularly in U.C.C. game.”

Substitutes: The rules say substitutes can only be used in the case of injury. The following were always fit and ready: J. Kilman; W. L. Scandrett; C. M. MacLachlan; J. W. Mitchell; C. L. Young; J. O. Callaghan; H. A. Deuell.”

With only two colours left to recreate a team for 1934, Ridley had lost a lot of power. They developed a light team to take every advantage of its speed. They may not have ranked with the best Ridley football teams but they seldom had a younger or pluckier one. They averaged only 146.9 lb. That was about 10 lb. per man below the Ridley average.

Despite this change from the hard-hitting team of 1933, Ridley might have won a second championship in a row in 1934 if T.C.S. had not come up with such a rare team they made a clean sweep of their school games and won an equally rare championship.

Ridley had downed Upper Canada 32-5 and then St. Andrew’s 30-1, and so had T.C.S. before the two teams met for the crucial game. V. Francis was Ridley’s captain; the flying wing was still W. D. Hilton; with J. W. Mitchell, a substitute in 1933, doing a fine job as quarterback. Francis ruled against the forward pass, and so apparently did T.C.S., until the final quarter. The result was a hard, close, low-scoring battle, with Ridley ahead 10-3 at the half. They picked up a single point in the third quarter and then tired. It was then that T.C.S. illustrated the value of forward passes (when they work); they did for T.C.S. who completed two in succession, each good for 50 yards. In that last ten minutes Ridley’s lead was transformed into a deficit – and a championship for T.C.S., *their first outright championship since 1911*.

The final score was 13-11, a hard game to lose and a proud one to win. The other three schools had been complimenting T.C.S. for years on their courageous persistence because T.C.S. had suffered through so many years of football adversity. The defeated Ridley footballers were very sincere in their congratulations. (*Postscript:* After trying for twelve years the Lower School’s football team at last defeated U.C.C. Preps on their own ground. They beat them at Ridley, too, in a sea of mud. The two scores were 21-11 and 8-0.)

The young, light but game Ridley football team of 1934 was converted into another championship team in 1935, with still another clean sweep of their all-important school matches. They narrowly missed again having an undefeated season, but lost once, to Jarvis Collegiate, who had trained hard and were waiting in ambush for them to exact revenge for the 1933 defeat. Jarvis used the forward pass judiciously this time, and defeated Ridley narrowly, 10-8. All the rest was victory for Ridley who sang “*We’re Champions Again*” for the second time in three years (and the fifth in seven).

Cam MacLachlan was football captain, and only two colours of 1934 had

left when his 1935 team was built that September. The sixteen-seventeen-year-olds had added weight; the team averaged 155.4 lb., a good gain. More important, they had added experience behind them, had retained their speed, and Cam MacLachlan was a superlative field general, a truly great footballer as he revealed later with Varsity.

It was speed which baffled Upper Canada who tried a forward passing game in the key, last game of the 1935 season, which meant the Little Big Four Championship. U.C.C. opened every period with a forward-pass attack, but their receivers seldom had a clear catch. Ridley stayed on the ground and relied on breaking through for long runs. Their speed was responsible for the last big play that won the game – and the championship. L. W. McLean, Ridley's left half who was very fast, recovered a kick from Upper Canada's Simpson on Ridley's 5-yard line, then evaded the entire U.C.C. team who were following down. He carried the ball almost the full length of the field. Just before he was tackled he passed to Wilson who fled over the line for the big score and they had beaten Upper Canada 20-11.

Earlier they had downed T.C.S. 39-9 and St. Andrew's 15-8.

Ridley was a running team nearly all of that 1935 season and made a lot of points following interceptions. In the St. Andrew's game McLean raced 60 yards after intercepting a forward pass. He twice ran 40 yards in the third quarter of the T.C.S. game. Edgar intercepted a T.C.S. forward pass in the last quarter and ran 50 yards for a "try". Cam MacLachlan intercepted another in the last few minutes, passed to Doherty who ran 30 yards for a touchdown. (*Postscript*: After comparing this rugged football to the platoon system and the almost unlimited substitution permitted in the professional game in 1959, an Old Boy exclaimed: "This is once where an old-timer is justified when he says, 'Brother, we weren't pampered pets in our day!' ")

The fans and players of the Fifties would be astonished at the speed of Ridley's football in the Thirties. When an old Ridleian of '35 or '39 or even later tells them about scoring three touch-downs within a few minutes – quite often two were scored in four or five – they just don't believe it because they think of the time-consuming huddle. It was not always part of football. Before the day of the hash-marks system and the huddle, the referee did not wait for the two sides to huddle and line up before whistling to resume play. The ball was dead where play stopped, and the offensive quarterback could be calling signals as his team were still coming into position and could launch a play at once. This was the Griffith system for Ridley. They could easily complete three plays in one minute or even less. When really rolling a Ridley team with the ball, could sweep the whole length of the field in two or three minutes.

Mr. R. S. Cockburn, who habitually refereed junior games in these years, declared he had to be as fit as the players just to keep up with the play.

Ridley was one of the last teams in Canada to adopt the huddle and only

did so because all their opponents were using it and there was nothing else to be done. When an Old Boy speaks of the speed of the pre-huddle Ridley teams, a pace of play is meant which is almost beyond understanding by the players and fans of today.

They were also sixty-minute men; no substitutes except for injury.

When an Old Boy of these years speaks of tackling, he means the knees or below. Dr. Griffith's training method included placing his boys 6 ft. to 7 ft. apart, and then ordering one to tackle the other from a standing start. The tackler had to leave his feet or he could not reach his victim. More frequently, each boy had to tackle another carrying the ball, with the rest of the team in line watching. This was all movement. He had to tackle low with the ball carrier at full speed. With so many watching it was an ordeal, but a lot was learned. The ball carrier also learned to pass as he was tackled. Tackling on a Ridley team meant a lunging, flying dive – always low. The tackler caught the devil if he did not hit below the waist. If you locked your opponent's knees or ankles, he was stopped. In open-field tackling Ridley's boys were taught – by the hour – to hit low and with one shoulder to make sure the victim spun and hit the ground first.

This had been the Ridley doctrine of tackling since the period before the Great War when Dr. Griffith returned to Ridley from Trinity College after coaching Varsity. You tackled hard and often – *and always low*.

The whole school was out as usual late each autumn for the final athletic muster of each calendar year – the Cross-Country Run. The three runs between 1933 and 1935 inclusive were varied but only because the course was changed. Otherwise, the dogged, slogging grinds, with a boy's physical fitness his principal asset, were just as they always had been – tough. The run of 1933 was almost snowed out and abandoned; instead, it was postponed for a week and then was staged with the course still treacherous and boot-top deep with mud on the ploughed lands. As they lined up the boys were far from models in a sportswear fashion parade; they knew this would be a particularly mucky business on a foul, raw day, so most of them dressed for it. Old, holed slacks, sweaters out at the elbows and due for the ashcan in any event, were common running costumes. Some bizarre raiment was in evidence, too; Collins in an overall of black and orange was depicting a Ridley tiger, and Goad had unearthed a brilliant emerald green shirt he had never before dared to wear.

The great pack was soon spread across the dreary countryside in a long straggling line, with the raw November wind bringing tears to their eyes and setting the fall-outs to shivering, to make them try another stretch. It was warmer to move as long as you could move. Paul Snyder's superb fitness brought him home in front of this year's mud-spattered cavalcade.

In 1934 the heavy going of the previous year was emphasized by the times made over firm ground by the leaders in this race. The three leaders of the

Seniors (Watlington ma), Intermediates (Bythell) and Juniors (Gibbons) all ran the stiff course in faster time than Snyder in 1933. There was a fine turn-out – 115 boys in the three Upper School categories started and 94 finished. The speed was not entirely due to the drier going; the new park-like Burgoyne Woods permitted it, for the Parks Commission had by now removed all underbrush. It was no longer a thorn-filled obstacle, choked with blow-downs.

In 1935 it was not the dead-game stayers trying to sprint to the finish despite exhaustion which highlighted the run; it was the entirely new route, the shortened distance. From now on, the big annual run would be much closer to a road race than to an endurance grind in open country over an obstacle course. Some Old Boys would snort again that they had not been pampered pets in their day, but the new race was still so tough that only the dead-fit could win.

St. Catharines had insisted upon growing steadily and new roads and subdivisions had once more forced laying out a changed course, with complete abandonment of the old, rugged route. The change was met with a touch of nostalgic sadness and, in the way of boys, this was justified. There was nothing to regret, but boys acquire affection for a tough challenge. No longer would there be the long run along the tow-path of the historic old canal beneath the St. Paul St. bridge, or the thorns and fallen logs of the Burgoyne bush or the plunge through the creek, generally ice-cold in November. The Ridley pack would no longer catch a whiff of the brewery's aromas or see the pile of bricks and *débris* at the old factory site where ankles were often twisted. All Ridley boys of the last ten years could recall that course but would do so with mingled feelings; it was better to remember it than to run it again. All races now started across the fields diagonally from in front of the School House. The route led to the most distant corner of D-squad's field, then turned sharp right across a ploughed field – and then away into the blue to the northwest. They then ran along country roads past fenced farms, only occasionally going cross-country over fields. The great change was in the shortened distances. Instead of nearly seven miles for both Seniors and Intermediates, the Seniors would now run only $4\frac{3}{4}$ miles, with the Intermediates and Juniors on a course of $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles. It was still long enough and tough enough in November's cold and mud. The Lower School distance had been sensibly shortened years ago.

For this first year on the new course Capt. Cockburn had elected himself marker at the turn-about of the Seniors' run, to see they did turn. Nothing went wrong. The race was won again by Wats Watlington ma, who had a ten-second lead on Soules ("with the stragglers far back, resting behind a red barn"). The repeat victory by Wats Watlington was a rare feat for the cross-country run, and his was especially notable, for he had won at both the long and shorter distances.

If there were three separate races in progress all had to come home by way of the tiring Hog’s Back, and each year even the defeated main pack tried fiercely to finish with a bit of *élan*. That is how they came back in 1935, magnificently muddy but strong, and somehow conjuring enough reserve strength for a brave rush through the archway and across the last field to the finish-line (just north of what had been the site of the old Lower School).

There was always something fascinating and wonderful about this one day in the year when most of the Upper School turned out for a physical-fitness and endurance test. The displays of sheer pluck were heartwarming; if you loved boys you loved them more as you saw the fighting heart of so many who grimly kept running on and on, though they had known at the start they must be beaten by half a mile, or perhaps even more. The winners –

	<i>Senior Champion</i>	<i>Intermediate Champion</i>	<i>Junior Champion</i>	<i>Lower School Champion</i>
1933	P. E. Snyder	J. W. Mitchell	D. C. Doherty	J. R. Geary (ma)
1934	F. W. H. Watlington (ma)	J. E. Bythell	E. G. Gibbons	R. B. McClelland
1935	F. W. H. Watlington (ma)	R. P. McB. Waind	W. B. C. Burgoyne	D. M. Currey

“TO BROADEN YOUR INTELLECT, USE IT!”

THE unrelenting contest of wits between master and student which all schools have known since the profession of teaching began, was still consistently one of Ridley’s most intriguing features, of course. Both sides enjoyed it, even the masters when red-faced by a proper stumper. There were always students who took fiendish delight in unearthing embarrassing questions for a master in his own subject, and the masters in turn got their own back by legitimately setting intricate problems to spark class-interest or to instill the habit of organized mental concentration. In some forms and with some masters conundrums and involved problems might be passed back and forth as challenges for an entire term.

Mathematics was the natural subject for stumpers, but they could come up in any classroom. Dr. Griffith still stressed his policy of seeking to persuade boys to know how and to do their own research regardless of subject. He may have inspired a new phase of the master-student contest of wits which ended up by a series of fascinating problems for Old Boys as well as students, when he based a question requiring knowledge of the Greek scholars. He had dropped into the junior mathematics class, perhaps just to pose it: “Who was the first mathematician to measure the circumference of the earth?” No one had the answer off-hand, but next day all knew that it was *Eratosthenes*. Using primitive instruments he had figured the earth’s circumference as 24,662 miles and set the diameter at 7,850. (The figures considered correct

today: 24,902 and 7,926 miles.) He followed this up with a similar question to another junior (not senior) class on the first astronomer-mathematician to reckon the solar year. After a search in the library they knew it was *Hipparchus* who set it at $365\frac{1}{4}$ days minus 4 minutes, 48 seconds. (He was only out 6 minutes by today's figures. He also estimated the distance to the moon as 250,000 miles, and was only out by 5 per cent.)

Conundrums and stumpers of various types were then offered with sudden popularity in all houses, from the Lower School to the Sixth Form, to say that Ridley was on the crest of another of her waves of a new interest. *Acta* caught the infection and published two pages of problems by masters which caused so much pencil-chewing and exasperated contemplation in Ridleian homes that some Old Boys declared they were not stumpers but proper stinkers.

1. The clock on the city hall takes 25 secs. to strike eleven, while the Church clock takes 30 seconds. Last night they sounded the first stroke of eleven simultaneously, and before they had finished striking I noticed that their strokes once more coincided. *Which stroke of each clock would this be?*
2. A certain number of five digits (all different) when divided by 223 leaves a remainder 194 and when divided by 194 leaves a remainder 165. *What is it?*
3. *Construct an equation from the following data:* The borrowed ducats less the product of the cities, the golden mice, the musketeers, the blackbirds and the just men are equal to the sum of the thieves and the days of our years by reason of strength.
4. The heights and weights of 1000 husbands and 1000 wives are recorded. It is found that 756 husbands are taller than their wives and 720 husbands are both taller and heavier than their wives. *How many wives are both taller and heavier than their husbands?*
5. There was a rope hanging over a pulley with a weight on one end and a monkey of equal weight on the other end. The rope weighed 4 ounces per foot; the age of the monkey and the age of its mother were together equal to 4 years; the weight of the monkey was as many pounds as its mother was years old; the mother was twice as old as the monkey was when the mother was half as old as the monkey will be when the monkey is three times as old as the mother was when the mother was three times as old as the monkey. The weight of the weight and the weight of the rope was half as much again as the difference between the weight of the weight and the weight of the weight of the monkey. *What was the length of the rope?*
6. *Find the numbers which replace the letters and make the following sums possible: –*

T H U R S D A Y
F R I D A Y

Addition	<hr/>									
	D	R	R	R	F	I	T	S		
	T	H	U	R	S	D	A	Y		
Subtraction	<hr/>									
	T	F	T	R	D	R	R	R		

These stinkers were not examination problems; they were merely offered as a means to induce boys to think. The solutions for the items of mental discipline were promised in the next issue of *Acta* – if necessary. Apparently the editors felt they were so easy that printing them was not necessary and only a waste of time. They never appeared. All readers were diffident about admitting inability to solve them, so a protest was not made, but at least one Old Boy later grumbled: “They probably didn’t have the answers themselves.”

*Our mental stimulants, like peas,
Are bottled to our taste
By doctors (Mus.) and LL.D.s,
Lest brains should go to waste.*

*Experience teaches that one’s head
Has need of acrobatics,
So masters earn their daily bread
By teaching mathematics.*

*If e’er a master should propound
A Geometric teaser,
A soporific may be found
By conning over Caesar.*

*If carping critics do deny
The truth of this contention,
Then let them come themselves and try
The joys of a detention.*

– C.E.H.T.

End
of
Volume
one

Note: Volume Two incorporates the following –

A Preface
Chapters 26 to 39
A Postface
Bibliography
Appendices A-J
The Index

Appendix J includes a complete alphabetical list of Old Boys, 1889-1959; Additional Old Boys, September 1959-May 1962; Boys on the School Roll, June, 1962.



GERALD S SHANTZ
RIDLEY COLLEGE
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Edward Goodall

